DRAFT Health Impact Assessment of

**Local Development Framework:
Core Strategy Preferred Options Report**

May 2011

Version 1

READER INFORMATION	
Title	Health Impact Assessment of the Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Preferred Options Report
Department	A Joint report by the NHS Public Health team, Directorate of Regeneration, Economy and Skills and Chief Executives Department
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Purpose	To detail the rapid prospective Health Impact Assessment of the Local Development Framework: Core Strategy, which has been undertaken at Preferred Options Stage.
Description	This document firstly explains the links between health and spatial planning, the Health Impact Assessment process and methodology to be applied to this Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Some background to the Core Strategy along with proposed timescales for implementation is given, along with a profile of Knowsley with particular regard to existing health and other related issues. Section 2 gives an introduction to the Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) Checklist 'Watch out for Health' and goes on to analyse the potential impact of relevant 'Preferred Options' in relation to the evidence provided by the HUDU, including identification of potential positive and negative impacts. Recommendations as to where the document could be strengthened to best reflect the evidence are also provided.
Superseded documents	None
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Related information	Further information about Health Impact Assessment to be found at; • **IMPACT**, International Health Impact Assessment Consortium, University of Liverpool, http://www.liv.ac.uk/ihia/ • **HIA Gateway**, Association of Public Health Observatories, http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=40141

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Executive Summary

0.1   Knowsley Council are currently in the process of developing a Local Development Framework (LDF) which will guide spatial planning and investment decisions made in the Borough up to 2027. The LDF is formed by an extensive and complex set of documents which, once adopted, will impact significantly on the physical environment of the Borough. This in turn will have a resultant impact on the social and economic landscape of Knowsley, and on the health of the local population.

0.2   The links between physical environmental conditions and human health and wellbeing are increasingly prevalent. Health determinants such as the environment, income, employment, transport, housing, crime and the social and physical condition of local neighbourhoods can all contribute to good and poor health. Recent government planning guidance recognises these links and advocates that the current planning system strives to create Sustainable Communities, which incorporates reference to human health.

0.3   In recognising the inter-relationship between spatial planning and human health, Knowsley Council and NHS Knowsley have undertaken a rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) on the emerging Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is the central document to the LDF and sets out the vision, strategic objectives and delivery strategy for the LDF. The current stage is the Preferred Options Report, which consists of 27 Preferred Options covering all aspects of spatial planning, including housing, greenspace, economy, retail, etc. The aim of the HIA is to identify potential positive and negative impacts of the Core Strategy and provide reccomdations to ensure that the Strategy, once adopted, would largely impact positively on the health of the local population.

0.4   A steering group was developed to establish the most appropriate approach to undertaking the HIA. Due to size and complex nature of the Core Strategy it would have been unfeasible to assess each individual Preferred Option and therefore an alternative approach was explored. Upon review of the available evidence and general best practice around the consideration of health within the planning system, a document called the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist 'Watch out for Health'[1] was identified. This document pulled together a variety of evidence around the positive and potential negatives impacts which planning can have on human health. The document identifies the direct and indirect aspects where planning may influence health as follows;

- Direct impacts (or influences) on health;
  - Housing
  - Access to public services
  - Opportunities for physical activity

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[1] Health Urban Development Unit (2009), *Watch out for Health,* from http://www.healthyurbandevelopment.nhs.uk/pages/key_docs/key_documents_hudu.html (accessed 16th May 2011)

- o Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity
- o Accessibility and transport

- Indirect impacts (or influences) on health;
  - o Crime reduction and community safety
  - o Access to healthy food
  - o Access to work
  - o Social cohesion and social capital
  - o Resource minimisation
  - o Climate Change

0.5   The HIA uses evidence from the HUDU Checklist, along with relevant extracts from the Preferred Options, in order to identify where the Core Strategy supports the national evidence and where changes could potentially be made to ensure that the document has a more positive impact on human health.

0.6   Two workshop sessions were organised to inform discussion about the above, and a range of Council and NHS Officers were invited. Feedback gathered during these workshops, along with additional background information, has been collated into this report. At the sessions an overview of the LDF and HIA process was given, along with a profile of the Knowsley area.

0.7   A brief profile of the Borough is given in Section 1.5 of this report and highlights some of the health and wider issues prevalent within the borough. Spatially, Knowsley consists of a belt of large suburban towns on the outskirts of Liverpool. The area has a large amount of open space and several major employment opportunities. Issues facing the current population include high levels of deprivation including high worklessness and low levels of educational attainment. The area also has an ageing population.

0.8   In terms of health related issues, life expectancy within the borough is lower than the national average for both males and females. Rates of lung cancer, respiratory disease, coronary heart and cardiovascular disease are higher than national and regional levels. Recorded crimes within the Borough have significantly reduced within recent years, although perception of crime has not fallen. In terms of mental health, evidence suggests that Knowsley residents have relatively low mental wellbeing and are less likely to join sports clubs, religious groups or educational groups. However, Knowsley residents report positively around local identity and belonging, and satisfaction with their local area.

0.9   Section two of this report sets out the findings of the HIA and gives details of positive impacts, potential negative impacts and recommendations for each of the relevant Preferred Options, in relation to the topic areas covered by the HUDU guidance.

0.10   Overall, it was concluded that the Core Strategy, if implemented as stated within the Preferred Options Report, would have a generally positive impact on the health of

the Knowsley population. Best practice was reflected particularly well in the areas of housing, accessibility and transport, resource minimisation and climate change.

0.11   However, the HIA process did highlight some areas of concern. For example, the proposed review and potential release of land within the Green Belt for development could potentially have a negative impact on the health of the local population and therefore it was recommended that a separate Health Impact Assessment be undertaken as appropriate on such sites which come forward for development. In addition, the process also identified areas for further work between health and planning, for example, in tackling the issues of takeaway food outlets within the borough and identifying and providing for the needs of vulnerable communities such as the Gypsy and Traveller Community. A summary of recommendations is provided within Appendix A to this report.

0.12   In terms of next steps, having been signed off at the Council's Regeneration, Economy and Skills Portfolio Meeting in early June 2011, this HIA report then be published for public consultation along with the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report for 10 weeks. This will be advertised in a variety of formats for a wide range of stakeholders, including local residents, to comment. Comments received through the consultation process which relate to the HIA will be reported as part of the Report of Consultation which will be produced subsequent to the conclusion of the Preferred Options Consultation.

0.13   On completion of the public consultation, work will then be undertaken by the Health and Regeneration Officer and the Local Development Framework Team to ensure that the recommendations contained in the HIA report are incorporated within the emerging Core Strategy.

SECTION 1: HIA PROCESS AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This report is a rapid and prospective Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Knowsley Core Strategy which is currently at Preferred Options Stage. The Core Strategy forms the main document within the Local Development Framework (LDF) which, as a whole, sets out Knowsley's vision for spatial development within the Borough up to 2027 and will guide spatial planning and investment decisions made within this period.

1.1.2 The links between physical environmental conditions and human health and well-being are increasingly prevalent. Given the significant influence which the LDF and Core Strategy will have on the physical development of the borough, it is pertinent to undertake a HIA to ensure that development will largely impact positively on the health of the local population.

1.1.3 The first section of this document explains the links between health and spatial planning, the process and methodology to be applied to this HIA. Some background to the Core Strategy along with proposed timescales for adoption is given along with a profile of Knowsley with particular regard to existing health and other related issues.

1.1.4 Section 2 gives an introduction to the Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) Checklist 'Watch out for Health' and goes on to analyse the potential impact of relevant Preferred Options in relation to the evidence provided by the HUDU, including identification of potential positive and negative impacts. Recommendations as to where the Core Strategy could be strengthened to best reflect the evidence are also provided.

1.2 Health and Spatial Planning

1.2.1 Health can be defined as *"a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being not just the absence of disease or infirmity (World Health Organisation, 1946)"*.

1.2.2 Over recent years there has been increased recognition of the wide range of social, environmental and economic factors that contribute to human health. Factors such as environment, income, employment, transport, housing, crime and the social and physical condition of local neighbourhoods all contribute to good and poor health. These are called health determinants. Categories of health determinants are show in Figure 1 and more detailed examples of health determinants are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Categories of health determinants
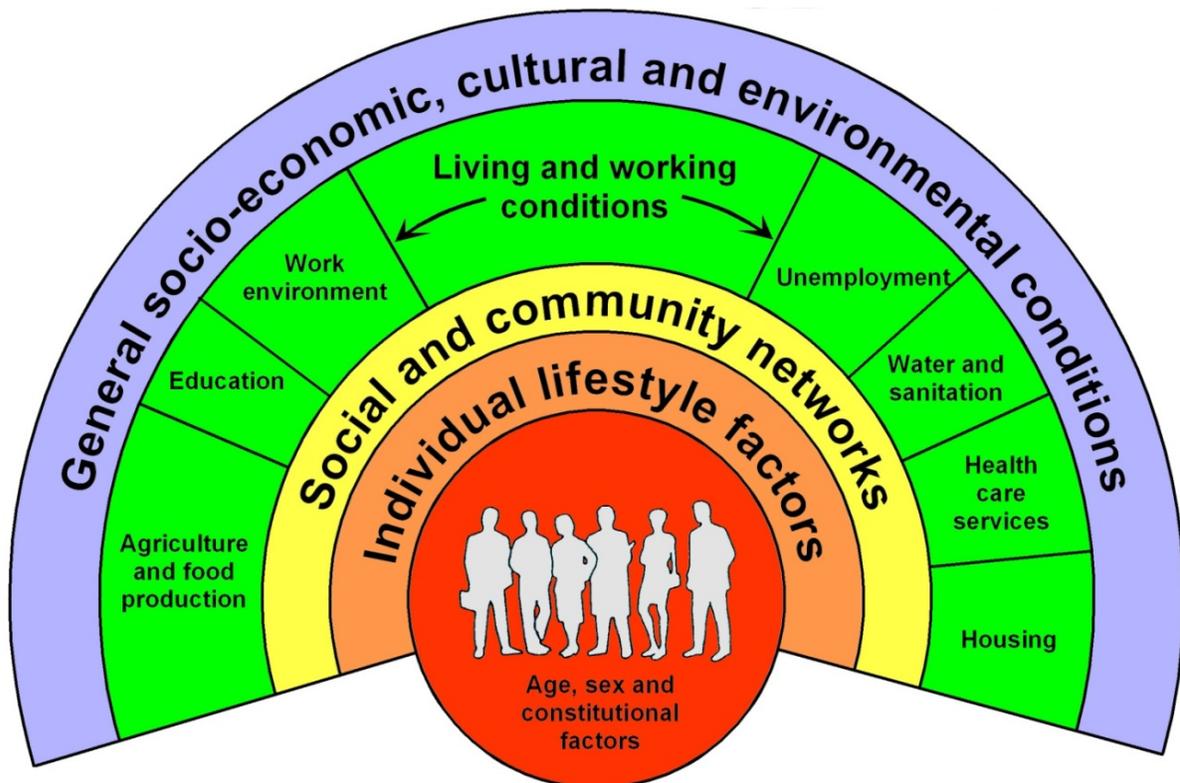
Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

1.2.3 Spatial planning is the process which deals with the design and organisation of the physical environment through the development of plans and policies which guide new development. This process therefore has the potential to significantly impact on a population's health and wellbeing, similarly in both a positive or negative way.

Figure 2: Examples of health determinants[2]

	Examples of specific influences on health (health determinants)
Biological factors	*Age, sex, genetic factors*
Personal / family circumstances and lifestyle	*Family structure and functioning, primary / secondary / adult education, occupation, unemployment, risk-taking behaviour, diet, smoking, alcohol, substance misuse, exercise, recreation, means of transport (cycle / car ownership)*
Social environment	*Culture, peer pressures, discrimination, social support (neighbourliness, social networks / isolation), community / cultural / spiritual participation*
Physical environment	*Air, water, housing conditions, working conditions, noise, smell, view, public safety, civic design, shops, (location / range / quality), communications (road / rail), land use, waste disposal, energy, local environmental features*
Public services	*access to (location / disabled access /costs) and quality of primary / community / secondary healthcare, child care, social services, housing / leisure / employment / social security services; public transport, policing, other health-relevant public services, non-statutory agencies and services*
Public policy	*economic / social / environmental / health trends, local and national priorities, policies, programmes, projects*

1.2.4 Planning emerged from the public health movement and in particular, the move to replace slums with well-designed cities and suburbs[3]. Rapid industrialisation during the nineteenth century required the need to overcome health problems related to slum housing areas such as overcrowding and poor sanitation. The Garden City movement of the early 20th century was focused on providing healthier environments for people to live in and this heavily influenced the first planning legislation in 1909[4].

1.2.5 The following extract from Barton and Tsourou (2000) Healthy Urban Planning gives an overview of the impact which urban planning and the physical environment can have in relation to the socio-economic categories of health as explained in Figure 1 and 2 of this report.

> "Individual behaviour and lifestyle:
> The physical environment, which is shaped by planning decisions, can facilitate or deter a healthy lifestyle. The propensity of people to walk, cycle or play in the open air is affected by the convenience, quality and safety of pedestrian and cycling routes and by the availability of local

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[2] Scott-Samuel, Birley and Ardern (2001) *Merseyside guidelines for Health impact assessment*

[3] Winters, L. *et al* (2010) *Top Tips for a Health Planned Environment*, LPHO, University of Liverpool

[4] Kirklees MBC, (December 2010) Sustainability Appraisal Report LDF Core Strategy Draft Proposals, (accessed 6th April 2011) from
http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/business/planning/localdevelopment/pdf/Sustainability_Appraisal_Full.pdf , p.94

open space. This is critically important in relation to children, as a habit of healthy regular exercise is formed or not formed during childhood and lasts a lifetime. Regular exercise protects against heart disease and, can help to prevent the onset of obesity, consequently having the potential to reduce the onset of diabetes. Exercise is also shown to promote a sense of wellbeing, for example it can protect older people from depression.

Social and community influences:
Urban planning can act to destroy social networks, as in insensitive urban renewal schemes, or can conversely cultivate opportunities for a rich community life. Local community networks of support and friendships can be affected by the existence of common activities and meeting places; schools, post offices, pubs and convivial, safe streets. The sustenance of such local facilities and networks depends in part on coherent long-term strategies for housing, economic development and transport. Social support is particularly important for the most vulnerable groups. Moreover, for those who do not demonstrate strong and cohesive social support, are less likely to experience positive wellbeing, and will experience more depression, greater risk of pregnancy complications and higher levels of disability and chronic diseases'. This does not mean that urban planning can create communities, but that planning affects the opportunities they have to choose.

Local structural conditions (Living and working conditions):
Planning policy very directly affects personal health in a number of ways. For example, the lack of sufficient housing of adequate quality can lead to housing stress and fuel poverty. This will affect health; accessible work opportunities (which can help alleviate poverty and depression and consequently the poor health caused by unemployment); and an accessible urban structure (efficient, inexpensive transport system can reduce problems or social exclusion and open up opportunities for poor and less mobile people).

General socioeconomic, cultural and environmental conditions:
At the broadest level of influence, local urban planning affects the quality of air, water and social recourses. It also affects the emission of green house gases, particularly in buildings and transport, and thus acts to exacerbate or mitigate the health risks of rapid climate change."

Barton and Tsourou (2000)[5]

1.2.6   Currently, government guidance indicates that spatial planning influences both the current and future health of the nation. A guiding principle within current UK

[5] Barton and Tsourou (2000) *Healthy Urban Planning.* Spon Press, as cited in Limerick Health Promotion (April 2008) *Limerick Regeneration Health Impact Assessment.*

government planning policy is the desire to create sustainable communities. These can be defined as places where '... people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all' (ODPM, 2003).   Many of these factors are those also recognised as the wider determinants of health (Figures 1 & 2) and therefore illustrate the links between planning and health and wellbeing.

1.2.7   Planning Policy Statements form part of national planning policy and therefore guide the actions of authorities responsible for spatial planning (including local authorities, transport authorities and the NHS).

1.2.8   Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Communities (ODPM, 2005) requires that local development plans;
- Address accessibility (in terms of both location and physical access) for all members of the community to jobs, health, housing, education, shop, leisure and community facilities.
- Deliver safe, healthy and attractive places to live, and;
- Support health and wellbeing by making provision for physical activity.

1.2.8   A key objective of the proposed Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment[6] is to bring together related policies on the natural environment and open and greenspaces to ensure that the planning system delivers healthy sustainable communities which adapt to and are resilient to climate change whilst protecting the natural environment.

1.2.9   When health determinants result in differences in levels of health which are unfair or unjust then 'health inequalities' are said to exist. The Marmot Report (2010), a major review of health inequalities in England, and found that inequalities in health arise because of inequalities that exist in the conditions of daily life and the fundamental drivers that give rise to these health determinants. The Marmot Report recognised that links between health and the physical environment could be categorised as follows;
- Housing
- Access to Public Services
- Opportunities for Physical Activity
- Air Quality, Noise and Neighbourhood Amenity
- Accessibility and Transport
- Crime Reduction and Community Safety
- Access to Healthy Food
- Access to Work and Impact of Unemployment and Low Incomes
- Social Cohesion and Social Capital

[6] DCLG (March 2010) Consultation paper on a new Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment, HMSO, London

- Resource Minimisation
- Climate Change
- Fuel Poverty

1.2.10 This Health Impact Assessment will use information from the Health Urban Development Unit Checklist 'Watch out for Health'[7] to explore these issues in relation to the Knowsley Core Strategy Preferred Options Report.

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[7] Health Urban Development Unit (2009), *Watch out for Health,* from http://www.healthyurbandevelopment.nhs.uk/pages/key_docs/key_documents_hudu.html (accessed 16th May 2011)

1.3   Local Development Framework

1.3.1   The Local Development Framework (LDF) is a suite of documents, produced by the local planning authority, which collectively form the spatial planning strategy for a defined area. This can be explained as follows:

> "The Core Strategy within the LDF sets out the vision, strategic objectives and delivery strategy for achieving these. The LDF as a whole is the spatial expression of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for the area."[8]

1.3.2   Knowsley Council's Local Development Framework team are in the process of preparing the Core Strategy.   The following extract has been taken from the Preferred Options Report which has been prepared as part of the ongoing process required to develop the Core Strategy.[9]

> **"What is the Core Strategy?**
> This Preferred Options Report is part of our process of preparing Knowsley's Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD). The Core Strategy will set the strategic framework for the growth and development of Knowsley up to 2027 and beyond and form the central part of the Borough's Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will promote, guide and manage the future development of Knowsley and make important choices about how and where new development and regeneration will take place. The LDF will shape the investment plans of the Council and other public, voluntary and private sector organisations.
>
> **What are we trying to achieve?**
> Knowsley's Sustainable Community Strategy (2008-2023) aims to make Knowsley the 'borough of choice'. Success will be measured by the Borough having a sustainable and diverse population, living in successful suburban townships that provide a sense of place and community. Knowsley will have:
> - Attractive, sustainable neighbourhoods with a wide choice of housing and excellent
> - community facilities;
> - vibrant and welcoming town centres;
> - residents and local communities who are able to make positive lifestyle choices;
> - high quality employment areas which help to drive economic growth in the Liverpool City Region; and

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[8] Local Government Improvement and Development (April 2010) *Local Development Framework*, (accessed 11th April 2011) from http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=9531199
[9] Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (June2011) *Core Strategy: Preferred Options Report*

- narrowed the gap in deprivation levels, both between different parts of the borough and between Knowsley and elsewhere.

The LDF Core Strategy will set out how Knowsley's townships are to develop if these aspirations are to be achieved.

Structure of Knowsley's Local Development Framework
Knowsley's Core Strategy will be supported by other documents within Knowsley's LDF, the roles of which are set out below.

- A **Site Allocations and Development Policies Development Plan Document** (DPD) will identify proposed site allocations for new housing, employment and other development. Whereas the Core Strategy will identify broad locations and distribution of development, the Site Allocations and Development Policies DPD will define individual development sites, by reference to the Proposals Map - see below. This document will also contain further policies that the Council will use to determine planning applications.

- The **Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste DPD** is being prepared jointly by Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton St Helens and Wirral Councils and will set out the planning strategy for the sustainable management of waste across the sub region. It will include site allocations for waste management uses and will form part of each district's LDF.

- The **Proposals Map** will be maintained as a separate document and will set out on an Ordnance Survey map base all the proposed site allocations for new development which are proposed within the above mentioned DPDs. This will be updated each time a DPD which allocates land for development is adopted.

- The Council is also preparing various **Supplementary Planning Documents** (SPDs) to provide further detail where necessary on the policies set out in the Core Strategy and other

- An **Annual Monitoring Report** (AMR) is published by the Council in December each year and assesses progress in addressing the key economic, social and environmental issues facing Knowsley, as well as the performance of the planning policies within the LDF.

- A number of **evidence base** studies have been undertaken to inform Knowsley's LDF and research is ongoing. These are referred to throughout this document, and a comprehensive list of relevant publications and studies which make up the evidence base is available on the Council's website at http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/ldf.

Further information on the documents which will make up Knowsley's Local Development Framework and timescales for their production can be found in the Council's **Local Development Scheme** (LDS) which can be viewed on the Council's website at http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/ldf."

(Extract ends)[10]

Vision and Objectives

1.3.3   The Vision and Objectives of the Core Strategy are set out below to provide an introduction for readers into the overall aims of the document.

1.3.4   The Vision is set out as follows;

> **"Spatial Vision - Knowsley in 2027**
> By 2027, Knowsley Borough will be known for its **successful suburban townships** that provide a sense of place and community, having sustainable, diverse, more prosperous and healthy populations.
>
> **Knowsley's economy** will be stronger and more diverse, providing employment choices for local people and helping to drive economic growth in the wider Liverpool City Region. Knowsley will be attractive for businesses to invest in, providing a range of employment land and premises to meet their needs. The new Learning Centres coupled with investment in primary schools, adult training and skills initiatives, will raise education attainment, skills and aspiration levels so Knowsley's people can access a wider range of jobs and better meet the needs of employers.
>
> Knowsley will provide a **wide choice of housing** to meet local needs. Residents will be attracted to the housing on offer and the vibrant, safe and cohesive communities of which it forms part. Housing renewal projects in Kirkby, North Huyton and Stockbridge Village will be successfully completed. New housing will be provided in sustainable locations, be well-designed, affordable and form attractive and identifiable neighbourhoods where residents will choose to live.
>
> **Kirkby, Prescot** and **Huyton Town Centres** will have defined and enhanced roles, be regenerated, vibrant and welcoming, providing focal points where local residents will choose to shop and access health care, cultural and other key services and facilities. The district centres of Halewood and Stockbridge Village will be renewed and thriving, serving as centres providing local shops and services for those communities.

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[10] Knowsley MBC (June,2011) *Knowsley Council Preferred Options Report,* KMBC

Knowsley's communities will be **better connected** to local employment opportunities, health care, education, shopping, leisure and recreation provision. Land uses and transport will be well co-ordinated to allow Knowsley's residents, workers and visitors to choose more sustainable forms of transport, including public transport, walking and cycling.

The gap in **deprivation levels** will be narrowed, both between different parts of the Borough and between Knowsley and elsewhere, with opportunity married with need. Areas of high social and economic deprivation, including Kirkby, North Huyton and Stockbridge Village, will have been transformed into distinctive places where people will choose to live, in vibrant, safe and cohesive communities.

Knowsley's open spaces and indoor and outdoor sporting, recreation and leisure opportunities will be enhanced so that residents can choose to become more active and pursue healthier lifestyles. Open spaces will become well-used multi-functional areas incorporating attractive walking and cycling links between homes and destinations, and form part of a wider **Green Infrastructure network**.

The character of Knowsley's **rural landscapes** and the villages of Cronton, Tarbock and Knowsley Village will be maintained. The rural areas will provide distinct breaks between Knowsley's townships, and good public access for informal countryside recreation and opportunities for formal recreation. Knowsley's areas of biodiversity and geological importance, together with buildings, structures and areas of historic and cultural importance will be protected and enhanced, contributing to Knowsley's environmental quality and distinctiveness."[11]

1.3.5 Chapter 3 of the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report sets out Strategic Objectives which the Strategy will aim to achieve over the plan period to 2027. These are provided below and set the context for all proposed policies within the Core Strategy.

Strategic Objective 1: Sustainable Economic and Employment Growth
To encourage and maintain **sustainable economic** and **employment growth** in Knowsley, complementary to that within the wider Liverpool City Region, by accommodating employment related development, improving skills within the workforce, and promoting enterprise, entrepreneurship and innovation.

Strategic Objective 2: Well-Balanced Housing Market
To promote a **well-balanced housing market** throughout Knowsley, by providing a sufficient quantity and mix of high quality sustainable housing in

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[11] Knowsley MBC (June, 2011) *Knowsley Council Preferred Options Report,* KMBC

appropriate locations to meet needs and demand (including for market, affordable and supported housing).

Strategic Objective 3: Regenerate and Transform
To **regenerate** and **transform** areas of social and economic deprivation so they become more sustainable, safer, healthier and more cohesive communities, hence narrowing the gap between the richest and poorest communities in Knowsley.

Strategic Objective 4: Distinctive, Viable and Sustainable Town Centres
To promote **distinctive, viable** and **sustainable town centres** in Huyton, Kirkby and Prescot, by improving choice, variety and quality in their range of retail, leisure and other town centre uses, with renewed and thriving district centres for Halewood and Stockbridge Village and a more sustainable pattern of local centres.

Strategic Objective 5: Quality of Place
To promote the **quality of place** within Knowsley by protecting historically important features and enhancing the character, quality and diversity of Knowsley's built environment, including town centres, key employment areas, residential neighbourhoods, conservation areas, rural areas and villages, key gateways and transport routes.

Strategic Objective 6: Sustainable Transport
To ensure new development in Knowsley encourages a reduction in the overall need to travel, and prioritises **sustainable transport** such as walking, cycling and public transport to ensure accessibility and linkage between housing areas and employment locations, shopping, leisure, culture, health care, education, community and sporting facilities, green spaces and other services.

Strategic Objective 7: Manage Environmental Resources
To **manage environmental resources** in Knowsley prudently by focusing on sustainable development, recycling and renewable technologies, reducing carbon emissions and responding to the impacts of climate change.

Strategic Objective 8: Green Infrastructure and Rural Areas
To support and strengthen the role of Knowsley's **Green Infrastructure** (in rural and urban areas), promote biodiversity, and maintain the character of rural settlements including Cronton, Tarbock and Knowsley Village.

1.3.6 Promoting Health and Wellbeing through the Core Strategy is seen as one of the highest priorities, and will form a crossing cutting theme to which all of the above objectives will contribute through improved access to high quality, sustainable and well designed housing, employment opportunities, open space, services and facilities, and prioritising sustainable transport modes like walking and cycling. In

addition maintaining existing and creating new opportunities for physical activity associated with sport, recreation, and supporting community involvement, cohesion, cultural activities and self-improvement will all help to improve health and wellbeing within Knowsley.

Core Strategy Preparation

1.3.7   In order to complete the Local Development Framework, a rigorous process of strategy development, development of the evidence base and consultation must be followed, as specified by Central Government. An 'Examination in Public' must also be held in order to ensure that documents within the LDF can be legally adopted for use as a basis for the Council's spatial planning and other related decisions.

1.3.8   The proposed timescales for the adoption of the Knowsley LDF Core Strategy are given below, with the current stage highlighted in bold.
  • Production of the Issues and Options Paper – 2007 - 2009
  • Public consultation on the Issues and Options reports - November 2009 – January 2011
  • Production of the 'Preferred Options' stage of the Core Strategy – May 2011
  • **Public consultation on Core Strategy 'Preferred Options' report – June 2011**
  • Publication of the Core Strategy – January 2012
  • Submission of the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State – April 2012
  • Examination in Public of Core Strategy begins – September 2012
  • Council formally adopts the Core Strategy – December 2012

Importance of the Current Stage

1.3.9   The current stage of the Core Strategy, involving preparation and consultation on the Preferred Options Report, is a critically important stage. This involves the Council setting out what is in essence its "preferred" strategy for Knowsley's development up to 2027. This is set out in terms of a spatial vision, a set of strategic objectives, and a series of preferred policy options. In essence, these represent what the Council considers to be the most appropriate range of policy interventions for Knowsley, in the light of the available evidence and accounting for appropriate policy drivers at the national and local level.

1.3.10 Consultation on the Preferred Options Report will enable local stakeholders and other interested parties to respond to the Council's preferred approach, and share their views about whether this is to be supported, or whether changes are needed. Following this consultation, the Council will be preparing its final version of the Core Strategy, accounting for consultation responses, as well as available evidence and findings from assessments undertaken in relating to sustainability, impacts on habitats, equality and diversity, as well as health.

1.4   Health Impact Assessment

1.4.1   Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been defined as "*The estimation of the effects of a specified action on the health of a defined population*" *(Scott-Samuel, 1998)* [12]. The action may be a project (for example, a housing development), a programme (for example, a public safety programme) or a policy (for example the introduction of water metering).

1.4.2   HIA is based on the socio-economic model of health, as demonstrated in Figures 1 and 2 at the beginning of this document, and is intended to produce a set of evidence-based recommendations to inform and influence decision-making.   HIA seeks to maximise the positive health impacts of any proposal and minimise (or eliminate) the negative health impacts.

1.4.3   The benefits of using the HIA model include:
- Helping to deliver corporate responsibility, for example, delivering 'A Healthy, Independent Knowsley' is a key objective of the borough[13].
- Providing an opportunity to increase stakeholder participation, and therefore overall support for the proposal.
- Contributing to the sustainability of a proposal.
- Concentrating delivery of services where there is most need.
- Adding value by minimising the risk of future costly mistakes.
- Supporting the progression of certain policies or developments.

1.4.4   A HIA should ideally be conducted at an early stage within the development of a proposal in order to ensure maximum opportunity to influence decision-making and subsequent health impacts.   HIA can also be carried out con-currently (during implementation) or retrospectively (after implementation) but the latter would have limitations on the degree of influence.

1.4.5.   The HIA process is designed to be practical and sufficiently flexible to be adapted to a range of circumstances.   HIAs can vary in terms of timescale and scope depending on the resources available.   Recognised types of HIA include;
- Desk-top – Short, desk-based exercise requiring no stakeholder engagement
- Rapid – More detailed exercise involving the use of secondary data and community engagement
- Comprehensive – Very detailed exercise usually taking 6 months plus, involving extensive engagement and consultation.

1.4.6   Recognised stages to be followed in undertaking HIA, illustrated in Figure 3 below;
- ***Screening*** – short process to determine if a HIA is required.

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[12] Scott-Samuel (1998) as cited in Scott-Samuel, Birley and Ardern (2001) *Merseyside guidelines for Health impact assessment*
[13] Knowsley MBC (2008), 'Knowsley Sustainable Communities Strategy', KMBC.

- *Scoping* – establish steering group, Terms of Reference, size and parameters of the HIA.
- *Conducting assessment* – prepare background information including policy analysis and health profile of affected communities, collect qualitative and quantitative data through consultation and literature review, analyse impacts, establish priorities and develop recommendations.
- *Producing report and action plan* – set out approach, methodology, conclusions and recommendations arising from the HIA. (Approval of this document by the steering group is essential).
- *Monitoring* – steering group to monitor action plan over a defined period of time.
- *Evaluation* – evaluate influence of the action plan on the proposal and on the predicted impacts (outcomes). Lessons learnt to be taken forward for use in future HIAs.

Figure 3: Generic model of HIA[14]
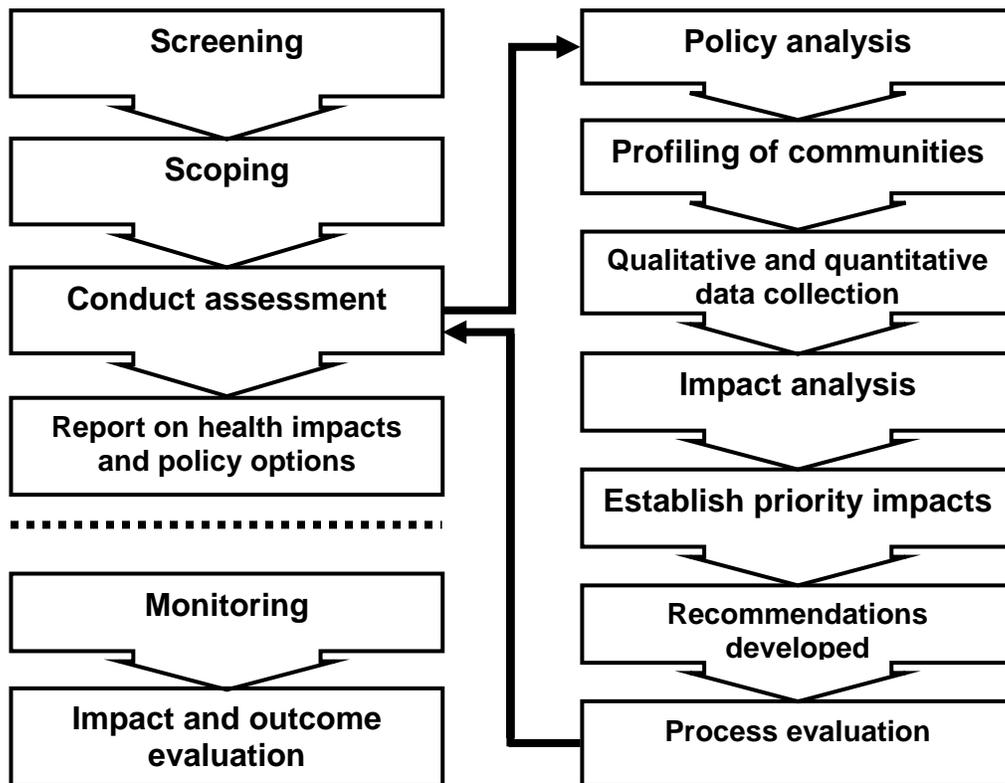
1.4.7 HIA is evidence-based and a significant part of all HIAs involves the collection of supporting evidence from a variety of sources to ensure triangulation of results. Policy analysis details relevant published government policy, best practice and

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[14] IMPACT (May 2004) *European Policy Health Impact Assessment – A Guide,* University of Liverpool. P. 8

available research in relation to the subject area. Profiling of communities involves population based evidence in relation to the local community affected by a proposal.

1.4.8 Data collection generally refers to the consultation elements of the HIA and should utilise the experience and expertise of a wide range of stakeholders in to order to collect primary qualitative and quantitative data about a proposal. Importantly this stage should be used to enhance confidence in the findings of the HIA by ensuring that recommendation are locally relevant and by recognising local opinions, experiences and expectations of those people most directly affected by the action being scrutinised.

Core Strategy HIA Methodology

1.4.9 The links between health and spatial planning are explored within Section 1.2 of this report. Given the significance of the Core Strategy and Local Development Framework as a whole on the spatial planning process within Knowsley, it was felt that the possibility of undertaking a Health Impact Assessment should be explored. This would aim to ensure that the policies contained within the Core Strategy have a positive impact on the local population and any identified potential negatives impacts are mitigated against.

1.4.10 The need to explore the possibility of conducting a HIA was identified early within the development of the Core Strategy by Knowsley Council's Local Development Framework Team. The 'Preferred Options' stage was seen to be the most appropriate time to undertake HIA as the document is progressed enough for detailed proposed policies to have been developed. However, changes can still be made where required. Given the importance of the Preferred Options Report in shaping the final Core Strategy, producing the HIA at this stage will also enable stakeholders to account for its findings in their own responses to the Preferred Options consultation.

1.4.11 A small steering group was established in early 2011 to take forward the HIA and included members of the Knowsley LDF Team and the Health and Regeneration Officer for Knowsley Council and NHS Knowsley.

Screening

1.4.12 The steering group undertook a short screening exercise based on Knowsley Council's Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) toolkit. The toolkit is designed to screen all projects, policies and programmes, using a series of questions relating to both sustainability and health outcomes. Areas where there are potential positive, neutral or negative impacts of a proposal are highlighted through the process.

1.4.13 In undertaking the IIA in relation to the Core Strategy, it was recognised that the plan would have a neutral impact within certain policy areas, as listed below;
- Development of skills within the local labour market

- Increase in weekly wages within the borough
- Formation and survival of local social enterprise
- Making it easier for people to access fresh fruit and vegetables
- Promoting positive mental wellbeing, particularly for those in deprived areas.

1.4.14 Although some of these policy areas are outside the remit of or marginal to the Core Strategy, for example, development of local skills, others are areas where more work can be undertaken to try and ensure that the impact on human health is more positive.

1.4.15 In addition to the above, it was identified that the impact of the Core Strategy on biodiversity and local landscape character could potentially be negative due to the proposals for the review and release of land currently within the Green Belt for development. Although steps have already been taken to mitigate against any negative environmental impacts, the health impacts of these proposals will be considered throughout the full Health Impact Assessment. It is also important to note that the IIA exercise also covered wider sustainability issues. The Council has undertaken a Sustainability Appraisal on the Core Strategy, which has considered this aspect and this has also had to ensure compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment regulations[15].

1.4.16 Although the IIA indicates that the Core Strategy will have relatively few negative consequences on the health of the local population, the steering group felt that the significance of the document and time-frame for its implementation (to 2027) necessitated further HIA work. The approach taken to this work is outlined in the following paragraphs.

Scoping

1.4.17 The process of scoping is designed to set the size, parameters and therefore type of HIA, based on what is practical and achievable within the timescale and resources available.

1.4.18 The Core Strategy is made up of 27 Preferred Options covering various aspects of land-use planning, and a list of these is given in Figure 4. The Preferred Options are divided up into categories as follows;
- CS1 – 8 Preferred Spatial Strategy – Overarching policies relating to the broad themes of the Core Strategy,
- CS9 – 14 Principal Regeneration Areas – Area specific policies relating to regeneration areas within the borough,

- CS15 – 18 Balancing the Housing Market – Specific policies relating to future housing policy within the borough,

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[15] In accordance with European Directive 2001/42/EC

- CS19 – 21 Promoting Quality of Place – Policies relating to the design of new development, management of heritage and greenspace within the borough,
- CS22 – 26 Caring for Knowsley – Policies relating to resource management and mitigation against climate change,
- CS27 Infrastructure Planning and Development Requirements.

1.4.19 Following discussion with the steering group and investigation into approaches taken by other authorities, it was felt unfeasible to undertake the HIA on each individual policy due to timescale/ complexity. An alternative approach was therefore explored. Upon review of the available evidence and general best practice around the consideration of health within the planning system, a document called the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist 'Watch out for Health'[16] was identified. This document has been development by the HUDU, which is funded by NHS Primary Health Care Trusts across London, and pulls together a variety of evidence around the positive and potential negatives impacts which planning can have on human health. The document identifies the direct and indirect aspects where planning may influence health;

- Direct impacts (or influences) on health;
  - Housing
  - Access to public services
  - Opportunities for physical activity
  - Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity
  - Accessibility and transport

- Indirect impacts (or influences) on health;
  - Crime reduction and community safety
  - Access to healthy food
  - Access to work
  - Social cohesion and social capital
  - Resource minimisation
  - Climate Change

1.4.20 It was therefore proposed that the HIA of the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report be based around these topic areas. The relevant Preferred Options relating to each of these topic areas was identified and used as a basis for discussion, along with additional information about local issues within Knowsley. Areas where the Core Strategy supported the national evidence were identified, along with areas where changes could potentially be made to ensure that the document had a more positive impact on human health.

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[16] Health Urban Development Unit (2009), *Watch out for Health,* from http://www.healthyurbandevelopment.nhs.uk/pages/key_docs/key_documents_hudu.html (accessed 16th May 2011)

Figure 4: Core Strategy Preferred Options Report – Structure

	Section	Chapter	Contents (Preferred Option references in **bold**)
1	Introduction	1. Introduction	n/a
		2. Knowsley – The Place	n/a
	Vision and Strategy	3. Vision and Objectives	Spatial Vision, Strategic Objectives (1 to 8) and Cross-cutting Themes
		4. Towards a Spatial Strategy	n/a
		5. Preferred Spatial Strategy	**CS1**: Spatial Strategy for Knowsley
			CS2: Development Principles
			CS3: Housing Supply, Delivery and Distribution
			CS4: Economy and Employment
			CS5: Green Belts
			CS6: Hierarchy of Centres and Retail Strategy
			CS7: Transport Networks
			CS8: Green Infrastructure
2	Area Priorities	6. Area Priorities	*Area Priorities for Huyton and Stockbridge Village*
			Area Priorities for Kirkby
			Area Priorities for Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village
			Area Priorities for Halewood
		7: Principal Regeneration Areas	**CS9**: Principal Regeneration Area - North Huyton and Stockbridge Village
			CS10: Principal Regeneration Area - Kirkby Town Centre
			CS11: Principal Regeneration Area - Knowsley Industrial and Business Parks
			CS12: Principal Regeneration Area - Tower Hill
			CS13: Principal Regeneration Area - South Prescot
			CS14: Principal Regeneration Area - Prescot Town Centre
3	Thematic Policies and Delivery	8: Balancing the Housing Market	**CS15**: Delivering Affordable Housing
			CS16: Specialist and Supported Accommodation
			CS17: Housing Sizes and Design Standards
			CS18: Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
		9: Promoting Quality of Place	**CS19**: Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development
			CS20: Managing Heritage
			CS21: Urban Greenspaces
		10: Caring for Knowsley	**CS22**: Sustainable and Low Carbon Development
			CS23: Renewable and Low Carbon Infrastructure
			CS24: Managing Flood Risk
			CS25: Management of Mineral Resources
			CS26: Waste Management
		11: Infrastructure Planning and Development Requirements	**CS27**: Planning for and Paying for New Infrastructure
	Appendices	A	Monitoring Framework
		B	Glossary
		C	Definitions
		D	Schedule of UDP Policies to be Replaced
		E	Issues and Options Policy Links

Preferred Options CS9 – 14: Principal Regeneration Areas

1.4.21 Preferred Options CS9 – 14: Covers the Principle Regeneration Areas within the borough, identified as Huyton and Stockbridge Village, Kirkby, Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village, and Halewood. These Preferred Options outline additional priorities which are specific to these particular areas. This HIA does not cover these Preferred Options as they largely reinforce the other overarching Preferred Options within the Core Strategy. In addition, any large regeneration schemes within the borough (as identified in the Principal Regeneration Area Preferred Options) would also be expected to have undertaken a separate Health Impact Assessment.

Geographical area

1.4.22 In terms of geography, the Core Strategy will cover the entire borough and therefore has potential to impact on all Knowsley residents, those living in adjacent areas and those who travel to or through the borough for work or leisure reasons.

Consultation

1.4.23 It is recognised that consultation is an important part of any HIA; however, given the large amount of people who could potentially be affected by the Core Strategy and the strategic nature and content of the document, the steering group felt that initial consultation as part of the HIA should be limited to internal officers from the Council and NHS. This was undertaken through two workshop sessions, as explained below. In addition to this, the HIA report will be published for public consultation alongside the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report in June 2011 and therefore will be available for other local stakeholders to review in considering their response to the Preferred Options consultation. Stakeholders will also be able to submit specific comments on the HIA report, as with all other supporting documents for the Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation.

1.4.24 Given the parameters and considerations mentioned above, it was therefore concluded that the HIA to be undertaken on the Core Strategy should be a rapid HIA.

Workshop sessions

1.4.25 As mentioned above, initial consultation on the HIA was undertaken with internal officers from the Council and NHS through two workshop sessions. At these sessions an introduction to HIA and the Core Strategy was given, along with an explanation of how the analysis of each topic area from the HUDU Checklist would be considered. The group was then split into two break out groups, each discussing a topic area from the HUDU Checklist.

1.4.26 For each topic area the groups were given a summary of the evidence from the HUDU Checklist, along with local evidence of need within Knowsley. The relevant Preferred Options from the Core Strategy were then listed to promote discussion and to identify where the evidence was reflected in the Core Strategy and if there were any gaps.

1.4.27 The steering group identified approximately 25 officers from across Knowsley Council and NHS Knowsley who represented all areas covered by the Core Strategy. All were invited to both sessions and the following 12 officers attended;
- Health and Regeneration Officer, KMBC/KNHS - Cath Taylor – (HIA trained)
- Senior Planner, LDF Team, KMBC - Rachel Apter – (HIA trained)
- Senior Planner, LDF Team, KMBC - Gareth Wildgoose
- Housing Strategy Development Officer, KMBC - Ian Cartledge
- Economic Strategy Development Officer, KMBC - Stef Tipping
- Transport Strategy Development Officer, KMBC – Pam McGuiness
- Health Promotion Programme Manager, KNHS - Chris McBrien
- Senior Public Health Comissioner, KMBC/KNHS – Paula Simpson
- Climate Change Manager, KMBC - Natalie Naisbit
- Scientific Officer, KMBC – Sean Jackson
- Kirkby Area Relationship Director, KMBC - Ian Grady
- Active Knowsley Area Manager, KMBC – George Welborn

1.4.28 Once completed in draft format, this report was e-mailed to all officers invite to attend the sessions, to allow those who could not make the sessions to comment. Suggested changes were incorporated into this version of the HIA report.

HIA links to other assessments

1.4.29 There are several other assessments which have been or are currently being undertaken on the Core Strategy. These assessments will interlink with the HIA and will be used to identify prevalent issues which the HIA may need to concentrate on. These assessments are outlined below:

- *Sustainability Appraisal (SA)* - The SA identifies impact of development by using 17 objectives that appraise social, environmental and economic impacts. Almost all of the SA objectives have links to the social determinants of health. As such the SA will incorporate many aspects of the HIA during its appraisal of the policies contained within the Preferred Options Report. The SA also includes requirements of the European Regulations related to Strategic Environmental Assessment[17].

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[17] European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EEC

- *Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)* - The HRA assesses the impacts of the strategy on "European Sites" identified as important for habitat protection. Although Knowsley does not contain any such sites, there are several in surrounding districts (e.g. the Mersey Estuary and Sefton Coast) which could be affected. The HRA also includes the requirements of the European Regulations related to habitats protection[18]. There are unlikely to be many strategic links between HIA and HRA.

- *Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)* - The Council are required to undertake an EqIA for Council policies by the Equality Act 2010. The assessment is a tool for identifying impacts on the people in the community and is based on the needs of the groups that make up the different equality groups, based on age, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief and social deprivation. Some of the needs of these groups relate to issues considered in the HIA, and therefore appropriate links will be made between these two documents.

- *Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)* – The JSNA is produced by a partnership between the primary care trust and local authority. The assessment seeks to identify the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the District's population. This information is used to inform the local area agreement and agreed commissioning priorities that seek to reduce health inequalities and improve health outcomes. The JSNA provides evidence of what and where the health inequalities and issues are that affect Knowsley and what the local priorities are for health. The draft JSNA is currently being development within Knowsley and will be used as evidence around local health requirements for the area.

Next steps

1.4.30 This report details the HIA process and all evidence collated from relevant literature and the consultation workshops. On completion this report was taken to the Council's Regeneration, Economy and Skills Portfolio Meeting in early June 2011 for sign off. As noted, the report will then be published for public consultation along with the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report for 10 weeks. This will be advertised in a variety of formats for a wider range of stakeholders, including local residents, to comment. Further details about the consultation process are available in the Preferred Options Report and on the Council's website at www.knowsley.gov.uk/ldf. Comments received which relate to the HIA will be reported as part of the Report of Consultation which will be produced subsequent to the conclusion of the Preferred Options Consultation.

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[18] European Union Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

Limitations to this HIA

1.4.31 Limitations to this HIA are outlined as follows;

- Due to the size of the Core Strategy (over 200 pages), the time and resources were not available to appraise every aspect of the document. Rather, a general approach, using the evidence supplied within the HUDU Checklist and cross-referencing this with relevant Preferred Options was taken. This was considered to be the best way to undertake the HIA given the time and resources available.
- As mentioned above, the strategic nature of the document and numbers of people potentially affected by the Core Strategy make consultation with all relevant stakeholders impractical. However, in order to combat this problem, initial consultation has been limited to internal officers from the Council and NHS. This report will then be published alongside the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report and comments invited from a wider range of stakeholders.

1.5   Profile of Knowsley

1.5.1   The following information has been taken from the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report: Chapter 2, giving an overview of the Knowsley area.

"Liverpool City Region Context

Knowsley is part of the Merseyside conurbation, between the city of Liverpool to the west and St. Helens to the east. Sefton and West Lancashire districts lie to the north while Halton district lies the south. These areas functionally form part of the wider Liverpool City Region.

The Borough comprises a belt of large suburban towns, villages and open areas and has good transport links, particularly in an east-west direction, to Liverpool City Centre, the Port of Liverpool, Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Manchester, and the national motorway and rail networks.

Knowsley plays a major role as a location for employment, housing and recreational opportunities within the Liverpool City Region. There is a very high level of commuting to and from the surrounding area, particularly to Liverpool, and the Borough forms part of the City Region's Northern Housing Market Area.

Settlement Pattern and Local Context

Most Knowsley residents live in the suburban towns of Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot, Whiston and Halewood. The majority of the development in these towns took place from the 1920s onwards, much of the growth having been as a result of Liverpool overspill. The exceptions to this include the older historic town of Prescot and a few pockets of older development in the other towns. The towns include several major suburban housing areas served by town and/or district centres providing a range of mainly local shopping and other services.

The Borough contains a number of large industrial and business areas which play a crucial economic role in the City Region, including Knowsley Industrial Park (in Kirkby), the Jaguar / Land Rover car plant (in Halewood), and Kings, Huyton and Prescot Business Parks in the central belt of the Borough. Knowsley Industrial Park is one of the largest industrial areas in Europe. Whiston Hospital is another major employer of sub-regional significance. The employment and housing areas of the borough are generally highly segregated.

The countryside and urban fringe areas of the Borough are designated as Green Belt, much of which is high grade farmland, and within which the attractive villages of Knowsley,

Figure 5: Map of Knowsley: Local Context
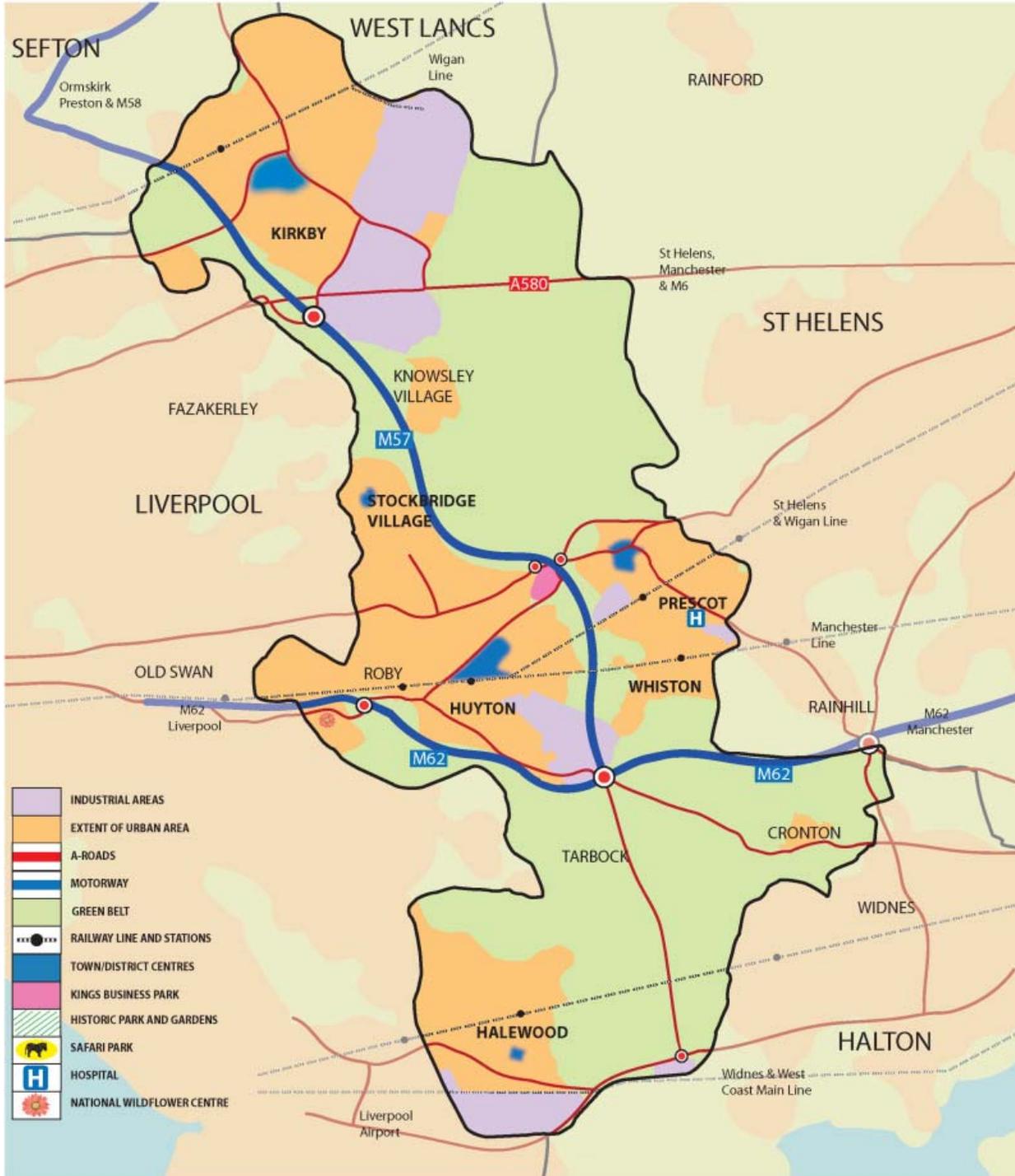
Cronton and Tarbock are located. Knowsley Safari Park (located within the historic KnowsleyHall Estate) represents a unique tourism facility, receiving over 500,000 visitors per year, while the National Wildflower Centre at Roby (Huyton) constitutes a further significant cultural asset for the Borough.

Population

In 2009, the population was estimated to be 149,400. National projections indicate that the Borough's population will increase by about 4,100 between 2008 and 2027. Knowsley's population is ageing, with the number of persons aged under 65 projected to decrease by 1,000 while those aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 8,100. Around 3% of Knowsley's population is from black or ethnic minority background, compared to around 10% nationally…

Deprivation

Despite significant progress in recent years, Knowsley is ranked the twelfth most deprived district in the country. The most deprived areas of the Borough are in Kirkby, Stockbridge Village and North Huyton, although smaller pockets of deprivation exist in other areas. Knowsley has high levels of worklessness with 6.6% of the residents of working age claiming Job Seeker's Allowance, many of them on a long term basis and also high levels of claimants of Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disability Allowance.

Educational attainment levels are low in Knowsley, and in 2009/2010, 37.8% of pupils achieved 5 or more A*-C grades at the end of Key Stage 4, compared to 53.1% in England.
The level of educational attainment for boys is particularly low and Knowsley has the fourth highest proportion of 16 to 18 year olds that is not in education, employment or training (also referred to as "NEET"). Educational attainment remains a priority for the Council and its partners which is being addressed through the Future Schools programme, under which all secondary schools have been replaced by seven new learning centres, and there is a continuing programme of rationalisation and investment in primary schools….

Health and wellbeing

Although life expectancy levels have increased, the Borough's levels (74.8 years for males and 79.2 for females) are still among the lowest in the country. The Borough has high death rates from lung cancer, liver disease, respiratory problems and heart disease, and high levels of childhood obesity, issues which are associated with smoking, drinking, diet and other lifestyle choices. The Borough has high mortality rates from cancer (particularly lung cancer), cardiovascular disease (including coronary heart disease and stroke) and respiratory disease.

These are issues which can be associated with lifestyle choices such as smoking, alcohol consumption and diet, but also wider environmental factors such as housing standards, quality of employment opportunities, and access to health and other services/facilities, open space and the natural environment. Social factors such as the opportunity for community participation, self-improvement and involvement within local decision-making are also recognised as important factors for increased health and well being."

(Extract from Core Strategy Preferred Options Report ends)[19]

Additional Health Issues within Knowsley

1.5.2 The following section provides some more specific health information in relation to the Knowsley area. The majority of the information is sourced from the Knowsley Public Health Annual Report 2009[20], unless otherwise stated.

Child Health

1.5.3 **Fertility Rate:** Based on 2006-2008 figures, the rate of live births per 1000 females aged 15 – 44 in Knowsley is 59.9, which is below figures for the North West (63.2) and England (62.1).

1.5.4 **Low Birth Weight:** Birth weight is measured to identify those children most at risk of dying young or suffering health problems. Those weighing less than 2,500g are classified as having a low birth weight. 8.2% of babies born in Knowsley were classified as low birth weight based on 2006-2008 figures. This is slightly higher than the North West and England figures of 7.9% and 7.6% respectively.

1.5.5 **Childhood Obesity:** In the year 2009/10, childhood obesity rates for reception year children in Knowsley were 12.9%, higher than the Northwest and England figures which were 9.9/9.8% respectively. Childhood obesity rates for the same period for Year 6 children were 23.2%, higher than the Northwest and England figures which were 19.3% and 18.7% respectively. However, when considering the healthy weight agenda as a continumn, Knowsley levels of healthy weight children are comparable nationally, with the North West region having 75.7% reception and 64.7% year 6 children registered as healthy weight, Knowsley respective comparisons are 70% and 62.3%.

1.5.6 **Oral Health:** Oral health in 5 year olds is monitored using the mean number of decayed, missing or filled teeth (dmft). In 2006 Knowsley had a mean dmft of 3.02 among 5-year olds. In 2008 the figure for Knowsley is known to have reduced significantly to a dmft 1.78, however, his data should be treated with caution as the substantial reduction is due to the high proportion of parents opting out of their children taking part in the survey in 2008.

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[19] Knowsley MBC (June, 2011) *Knowsley Council Preferred Options Report,* KMBC
[20] Knowsley Public Health Team (2009) *Public Health Annual Report 2009,* NHS Knowsley.

Mortality

1.5.7 This section uses Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) which are used to monitor levels of mortality within local populations and compare them against the standard (England & Wales). The SMR for England & Wales is always 100. Where a local SMR exceeds 100, this indicates a higher level of mortality than the national average. If the SMR is below 100, this indicates a lower level of mortality. SMRs should always be compared against the standard (100), rather than against each other.

1.5.8 The following table (figure 6) shows the main causes of death within Knowsley as a whole for both the male and female populations. The 'all age' Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) are then given to allow comparison between Knowsley, North West and national levels. All information is based on figures for between 2006 and 2008.

1.5.9 Figure 6 clearly shows that in all cases, Knowsley has significantly higher levels of mortality than that occurring nationally. In all but one case, mortality in relation to stroke, mortality rates for Knowsley are also higher than similar figures for the North West. In relation to lung cancer and respiratory disease, levels are 74% and 52% above the national average.

Figure 6: Comparison of mortality rates in the North West and Knowsley

Cause of death	% of deaths in Knowsley		SMR for Knowsley	% over national levels	SMR for North West	% over national levels
	Male	Female				
Cancer	30.9	27.8	127	27%	109	9%
Lung Cancer	9.2	8.6	174	74%	123	23%
Cardiovascular Disease (inc. coronary heart disease, stroke and others)	33.2	30.2	119	19%	113	13%
Coronary Heart Disease	19.0	14.1	130	30%	119	19%
Stroke	6.8	9.2	113	13%	115	15%
Respiratory Disease	15.5	16.9	152	52%	122	22%

Lifestyles

1.5.10 **Smoking Prevalence:** In 2008, smoking prevalence in Knowsley was 23.7%, higher than the Merseyside wide average of 19.5%.

1.5.11 **Alcohol:**   Results from the Knowsley Adult Health & Lifestyle Survey 2006 show current levels of binge drinking amongst the Knowsley population to be 31.4%. This compares to 17.9% nationally, recorded in the Health Survey for England.

1.5.12 **Sedentary Lifestyle:** A person is classified as leading a sedentary lifestyle if they do no vigorous activity on an average weekday and vigorous exercise less than once a month. Results from the Knowsley Adult Health & Lifestyle Survey 2006 show that more than half of the Knowsley population are leading sedentary lifestyles (52.5%). Figures show there is little variation across Knowsley, with levels ranging from 49.2% to 56.1%.

1.5.13 **Adult Obesity:**   Synthetic etimates of adult obesity in knowsley have been calculated in 2010, (National Centre for Social Research, 2010), which suggested that prevalaence of obesity within Knwosley is 23.4%, slightly lower than the Northwest (24.5%) and England levels (23.52%).

SECTION 2: ANALYSIS OF THE CORE STRATEGY

2.1   Introduction

2.1.1   As mentioned above, this section uses information from the Health Urban Development Unit's Checklist 'Watch out for Health' to ensure that health is fully considered through the Core Strategy.   The checklist is not designed to just raise concerns or problems associated with the Core Strategy but to articulate how problems might be resolved.

2.1.2   In relation to planning, the checklist recognises key direct impacts (or influences) on health as;
- Housing
- Access to public services
- Opportunities for physical activity
- Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity
- Accessibility and transport

2.1.3   The checklist recognises wider, indirect impacts (or influences) on health as;
- Crime reduction and community safety
- Access to healthy food
- Access to work
- Social cohesion and social capital
- Resource minimisation
- Climate Change

2.1.4   Evidence relating to each area mentioned above is explored in relation to local context and need within Knowsley. The relevant Preferred Options which relate to this area are then given, and as assessment made as to their positive or potential negative impact on the health of the borough. Recommendations about potential ways to strengthen the Core Strategy are then given.

2.1.5   It should be noted that the Core Strategy Preferred Options do not always fit within each of the above checklist headings. In these instances the Preferred Options are then covered in part under different headings, and this is stated within the text.

2.2   Housing

2.2.1   The following extract from the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist suggests the potential impact of planning on housing and health;

"Health Benefit
2.2.2   Access to decent and adequate housing is critically important, especially for the very young and very old in terms of health and wellbeing. Environmental factors, overcrowding and sanitation in buildings as well as unhealthy urban spaces have been widely recognised as causing illness since urban planning was formally introduced. Post-construction management also has impact on community welfare, cohesion and mental wellbeing.

Positive effects of planning
2.2.3   Making provision for affordable housing has the potential to improve wellbeing, while housing quality can be improved by use of appropriate construction methods. This includes use of good materials for noise insulation and energy-efficiency as well as detailed design considerations in making sure that homes are accessible, adaptable and well oriented. Such issues are emphasised in Building for Life (2008), an assessment process devised by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). Providing a sufficient range of housing tenures with good basic services is also essential. Adaptable buildings for community uses such as health, education and leisure can contribute towards a sustainable community, while the provision of Lifetime Homes (as outlined in Code for Sustainable Homes) allows residents to remain in their home despite changing accommodation requirements. In this context, adaptable housing more easily permits care to be provided in the community.

Potential negative effects of planning
2.2.4   A lack of affordable housing within communities may compromise the health of low-income residents as they are likely to spend more on housing costs and less on other health needs. Poor choice of location, design and orientation of housing developments can be detrimental to physical and mental health, housing that is overcrowded can also cause mental disorders, physical illness and accidents. Inappropriate buildings can also in some instances affect health and combined with social isolation can lead to depression. The quality of build including type of materials used also have the potential to contribute towards a number of health problems."

Local context

2.2.5   In 2010, Knowsley contained approximately 64,570 dwellings. The number of households in Knowsley is projected to rise by about 7,000 between 2008 and 2028. The average household size in the Borough is comparatively large with a high proportion containing dependent children and lone parent families. A very high proportion of Knowsley's housing stock (over 30%) is social rented. The highest concentrations of social rented housing are within Kirkby and North Huyton.

Local need

2.2.6   Key issues in relation to housing within Knowsley include:
- How to meet the housing requirements of an increasing number of households;
- Imbalance between needs/demands and supply in the housing market in terms type, tenure, and size;
- Major affordability issues across all sectors of the housing market;
- Relatively slow rates of housing delivery in recent years and constrained land supply to meet longer term needs; and
- How to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

2.2.7   Key opportunities include:
- Use planning policy to create a more balanced housing market which meets housing needs and demand;
- Support actions to increase housing delivery in the future; and
- Capitalise on good transport links to Liverpool City Centre and other key employment areas.

2.2.8   Key issues in relation to housing and health are recognised within Knowsley's emerging Joint Strategic Needs Assessment as follows;
- Continually rising fuel bills will however mean that more households will be tipped back into Fuel Poverty.
- Knowsley has lower levels of owner occupation and higher than average social housing stock as a proportion of the total stock.
- Good-quality, affordable, safe housing is essential to our wellbeing. Non decency in private sector is at 27.4% (12,550) which is lower than the national average of 35.8% for equivalent tenures.
- Overcrowding and under-occupancy is considered a major issue in the borough. Achieving the most efficient use of the current housing stock and addressing the needs of existing and new forming families in this sector is essential.
- There are issues regarding the ability of local people to afford housing within the borough which is based on their level of income and their ability to access housing finance.
- There is predicted to be a significant increase in the population aged 65 years old plus. This increase in older householders will have implications for health and support services, extra care housing, and the long term suitability of

accommodation, equity release schemes, adaptations, and other age - related care requirements.

Relevant Preferred Options

2.2.9 Preferred Options relating to housing are located within several different places within the Core Strategy, as follows;
- **CS1 Spatial Strategy for Knowsley** (in part) sets out overarching proposals to re-balance the housing stock and regeneration existing residential neighbourhoods.
- **CS3 Housing Supply, Delivery and Distribution** sets out the general approach to new housing provision within the borough including numbers, distribution, supply of available and tenure, size and density issues.
- **CS15 Affordable Housing** covers provision of affordable housing within sites and Section 106 contributions and partnership working with Registered Social Landlords.
- **CS16 Specialist and Supported Accommodation** sets guidance for the provision of specialist residential accommodation, e.g. for older or vulnerable people.
- **CS17 Housing Sizes and Design Standards** provides guidance about the mixture of housing sizes to be achieved in Knowsley, and design standards such as the Code for Sustainable Homes and Lifetime Homes.
- **CS18 Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople** sets out guidance for the location and development of travellers sites within Knowsley.

Identification of impacts

2.2.10 Potential impacts in relation to each of the above Preferred Options are outlined within this section:

CS1 Spatial Strategy for Knowsley (in part)

Positive impacts:
- This is a good statement of position and aspirations and is in line with local needs and evidence by recognising the need to re-balance the housing market, and provide a wider range of housing including affordable housing; and
- Continued investment in existing housing stock is also seen as a major positive, given the condition and design of some housing within the borough.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS3: Housing Supply, Delivery and Distribution

Positive impact
- In line with local needs, this policy seeks to increase the numbers of houses built within Knowsley and ensure that a five year supply of housing land is available.
- The policy also recognises that the size, tenure and type of housing should reflect local population need, which is supported by evidence from the HUDU.

Potential negative impacts:
- This approach may result in the release of Green Belt land for housing which will potentially have significant health impacts in terms of reduction of and access to natural habitats (also dealt with in later section of this HIA).
- Where densities of higher or lower than 30 to 40 dwelling per hectare are accepted, there may be potential health issues to consider. Higher densities could lead to overcrowding and noise issues, whilst lower densities could lead to social isolation and the increased need to travel.
- Whilst the policy recognises that new housing should reflect the local population need, it should also recognise future population changes and changing aspirations of the local community and aim to attract new residents from elsewhere.

Recommendations:
- That a separate Health Impact Assessment be undertaken on all applications which fall outside the stated housing density parameters, where a residential scheme is for 15 units or more.
- That planning and health colleagues work together to better understand the changing health and housing needs of the borough, to allow planning for the future.

CS15: Delivering Affordable Housing

Positive impacts:
- The Preferred Option seeks to ensure that a proportion of new housing in sites of over 15 dwellings is affordable. This is in line with evidence which suggests that affordable housing has the potential to improve wellbeing. The policy also puts in place measures to ensure that developers cannot easily avoid this requirement.
- The requirement of the policy to ensure affordable housing is not distinguishable between other housing on site will also help to encourage social integration.
- The commitment of the Council to continued working with Registered Social Landlords to provide affordable housing using public sector funding is also vital, particularly during the current economic climate. Partnership working in this respect will ensure that investment is concentrated in areas of most need.

Potential negative impacts:
- 25% affordable housing may not be enough in some areas where more could be encouraged. Some affordable housing solutions (e.g. shared ownership) may still be unobtainable to those on low incomes, for example, the requirement of a deposit can be a major issue. The policy should therefore be open to new affordable housing products which may develop over time.
- That new housing areas coming through as part of the Green Belt release may only be accessible for more affluent people.

Recommendations:
- That the supporting text for the Preferred Option be re-phrased to try to encourage over the minimum of 25% affordable housing for market schemes.
- That the Preferred Option be open to encouraging new types of affordable housing products which may develop over time.
- That it be made clear that new housing sites, including those potentially made available as part of the Green Belt review and release, incorporate the same levels of affordable housing as other residential sites within the borough.

CS 16: Specialist and Supported Accommodation

Positive impacts:
- The approach reflects best practice and deals with a major local issue by encouraging specialist housing or supported accommodation which is well located near to local amenities.
- The holistic approach in dealing with these issues is also welcomed.
- The Preferred Option does mention making better use of current stock which is a positive, however, it is felt that this could be enhanced through a statement supporting adaptation of current properties to ensure that people can remain in their homes rather than entering supported accommodation. This would be supported by evidence from best practice.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That where possible, it is be specified that residents of specialist and supported living accommodation are included within the design of new buildings, therefore accounting for the needs and aspirations of older people, for example, scooter parking.
- That opportunities for re-modelling and re-fitting older people's accommodation are maximised through wording of the Preferred Option.
- That the Preferred Option is amended to capitalise on opportunities to align planning policies with health policies, e.g. care at home.

CS 17: Housing Sizes and Design Standards

Positive impacts:
- The Preferred Option seeks to promote a mix of housing sizes in line with the HUDU best practice.
- High quality design is also required through compliance with a number of standards such as Building for Life and Lifetime Homes, which are specifically mentioned by the HUDU as important. These will help to ensure that homes are energy efficient; reduce potential issues such as fuel poverty and noise pollution. In addition, these standards will also help to ensure that homes are adaptable in order to suit the needs of the ageing population within Knowsley.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That the Preferred Option should emphasise that good quality design should be given a high priority, to mitigate against examples of poor design within the borough.
- That provision of new housing which includes bungalows should be supported where appropriate within the borough, including both affordable and market units.

CS 18: Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Positive impacts:
- This approach aims to ensure that accommodation is located in appropriate areas for a recognised disadvantaged group within society. The policy also seeks to ensure that any sites are as sustainable as possible, making reference for the need to be well located with easy access to local shops and facilities.
- Future management and maintenance of sites is considered in line with local evidence.

Potential negative impacts:
- Sites may be perceived as having a negative impact by surrounding communities, therefore leading to possible community cohesion issues which may negatively affect the wellbeing of all communities.

Recommendations:
- The Preferred Option could be amended to highlight the opportunity presented by planning and health colleagues working together to tackle issues of social exclusion, and providing out reach and other services to the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities within the area.

Additional comments

Positive impacts:
None

Potential negative impacts:
- The Core Strategy does not currently mention the need for effective post-construction management of housing which evidence suggests can help community cohesion, welfare and wellbeing, however, this is mentioned for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation.
- Poor management of housing can also lead to accidents within the home, and Knowsley currently has high numbers of accident characterised in this way, and this could be recognised within the Core Strategy.

Recommendations:
- Where appropriate the Core Strategy should make mention of the importance of post-construction management of all types of housing, not just for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation. This will help to manage accidents within the home.
- That the Core Strategy also makes greater links to the Knowsley Housing Strategy currently under development.
- That strong links between new residential development and greenspaces/communal areas should be made.

Conclusions

2.2.11 To conclude, it is felt that the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report largely reflects the best practice given in the HUDU Checklist and therefore would have a positive overall impact on the population of the borough, if implemented as stated. However, there are some opportunities to strengthen some of the Preferred Options through re-wording and consideration of additional issues such as post-construction management.

2.2.12 Opportunities for further joint working between planning and health colleagues are also identified, to ensure that housing within the borough meets the future needs of residents.

2.3 Access to public services

2.3.1 The following extract from the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist suggests the potential impact of planning on access to public services and health;

"Health benefits
2.3.2 In developing strong, vibrant, sustainable communities and promoting community cohesion, public services and infrastructure is required. The use of primary care and preventative health care services is dependent on a number of factors including physical access to health facilities and transportation. Provision and access to good quality public services not only in context of healthcare but also education and community facilities has a direct positive effect on human health. Opportunities for the community to participate in the planning of such services have the potential not only for positive effects on mental health and wellbeing but also can lead to greater community cohesion.

Positive effects of planning
2.3.3 By planning and providing for good local public services including configuration as well as establishment of multi-functional building that can accommodate a number of integrated public services, it is possible to provide better outcomes for health and wellbeing, reduce the need to travel as well as enhance social relationships within the community.

Potential negative impacts of planning
2.3.4 Failing to plan for different public service needs of an area leads to an unsustainable community. Under provision can contribute towards excessive travel, particularly for health, education, social and other local authority and central government services (damaging social cohesion and social capital). For those with mobility problems including the elderly, localised access to public services is vitally important, as public services located far away can cause significant problems not only in terms of accessing vital services but also in preventing opportunities for daily social interaction which could contribute to isolation and depression."

Local context

2.3.5 Kirkby, Prescot and Huyton Town Centres provide a broad range of services to distinct catchment areas associated with each. They are smaller than some centres in neighbouring districts, particularly Liverpool and St Helens. Kirkby and Huyton centres date largely from the 1950s and 1960s while Prescot contains a much older historic core, albeit with a large modern retail park extension. The Borough also contains smaller suburban district centres in Halewood, Stockbridge Village and Page Moss, and a network of smaller centres and parades providing valuable neighbourhood facilities.

2.3.6 Its is considered that… Huyton, Prescot and especially Kirkby Town Centres are failing to perform well as locations for shopping, leisure and other town centre uses. They have very little in the way of an evening economy, having no cinemas or theatres, and a limited range of restaurants. They also suffer from high levels of "leakage" of shopping expenditure to other centres, particularly in Liverpool. Cables Retail Park in Prescot is, however, commercially successful. A number of smaller centres and parades in Knowsley are experiencing difficulties.

Local need

2.3.7 Key issues in relation to town centres within Knowsley include;
- High leakage of expenditure on comparison and convenience shopping to centres and "out of centre" retail parks outside Knowsley;
- Limited evening economy, cultural and family offer in Knowsley's centres; and
- Some local shopping centres and parades are commercially unattractive at present.

2.3.8 Key opportunities include;
- Support further town centre and retail development in Knowsley's town and district centres to meet identified local requirements and mitigate existing gaps in provision;
- Improve and enhance the cultural and leisure offer in Knowsley's centres, including the night time economy.

Relevant Preferred Options

2.3.9 Preferred Options relating to access to public services are located within several different places within the Core Strategy, as follows;
- **CS1 Spatial Strategy for Knowsley** (in part) covers overarching principles for the local of new development including a focus on existing centres and appropriate investment in service provision.
- **CS2 Development Principles** (in part) covers development principles including the provision of safe and sustainable access for all to services and facilities.
- **CS4 Economy and Employment** (in part) covers "Town centre" Employment Uses – Retail, Leisure and Officers.
- **CS6 Town Centre and Retail Strategy** covers Knowsley's hierarchy of centres, new comparison goods shopping, new convenience goods shopping and delivery and monitoring.
- **CS7 Transport Networks**

Identification of impacts

2.3.10 Potential impacts in relation to each of the above Preferred Options are outlined within this section:

CS1 Spatial Strategy for Knowsley (in part)

Positive impacts:
- Focusing development within existing urban areas and preserving the existing settlement pattern is important in creating accessible public services. This is therefore in line with HUDU evidence.

Potential negative impacts:
- New development of housing within the Green Belt has the potential to be isolated from public services.

Recommendations:
- Any new development of land within the Green Belt for housing should ensure that public services are accessible within reasonable distance by a range of transport modes, giving priority to walking and cycling.

CS2 Development Principles (in part)

Positive impacts:
- By encouraging safe and sustainable access for all to a range of services and facilities, CS2 promotes good practice as highlighted by the HUDU. However, the policy wording could be strengthened to ensure that particular attention is given to accessibility by more vulnerable groups including the elderly and children.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That Preferred Option CS2 is strengthened to ensure accessibility to public services for vulnerable groups is given appropriate consideration.

CS4 Economy and Employment (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS4 aims to concentrate new retail and town centre uses within existing centres, which will increase accessibility, in line with the HUDU guidance.

Potential negative impacts:
- After town centre sites, edge of centre and then out of centre sites may be considered for such uses. These may have potential negative health impacts as the less mobile may struggle to access these services and also employment opportunities provided by them. Previous examples of this sort of development within the borough have led to similar access problems.

Recommendations:
- Any significant development being classified as edge or out of centre is subject to a separate Health Impact Assessment process. It is recognised that a process will have to be undertaken to define 'significant development', to ensure that the required HIAs are not too onerous for the development and case officers involved.
- That CS4 be strengthened to recognise that the quality and connectivity of the retail environment is important to ensure that town centres are considered as a whole.

CS6 Town Centre and Retail Strategy

Positive impacts:
- CS6 promotes the vitality and viability of existing town centres by promoting a mix of uses and not just retail.
- Provision of convenience retail provision, as outlined in CS6, is also seen as critical for the most deprived communities with the borough.
- It is recognised that town centres are good for mental health and cultural life. They can also help to encourage entrepreneurial spirit.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- Investigate the potential of the Core Strategy to strengthen the strategic approach to the retention and / or enhancement of local service provision, particularly small shops (i.e. convenience goods).
- That where the Council owns vacant shops (largely within neighbourhood centres and not town centres), pro-active ways to encourage the development of new businesses and services are considered.

CS7 Transport Networks

Positive impacts:
- CS7 re-iterated the need for new development to be located to prioritise accessibility via a range of travel modes and for large new development be located in the most accessible locations, which is a positive.
- Reference to cross-borough working is also made to enable accessibility across a wider footprint than Knowsley.

Potential negative impacts:
- Currently residents with limited mobility experience difficulty in accessing health care, for example hospitals, outside the borough. There is currently no mention of this within the Core Strategy and re-wording of CS7 could help this.

Recommendations:
- That CS7 (i) is re-worded to state that the overall Transport Strategy will 'Improvement the health and wellbeing of local people, by encouraging physically active means of travel and providing access to adequate healthcare facilities'.

Additional comments

Positive impacts:
None

Potential negative impacts:
- There is little mention within the Core Strategy about encouraging positive night-time uses within Knowsley's town centres. If worded carefully this could help to encourage increased social interaction and cultural activities. However, this also needs to be balanced within the potential negative implications of additional pubs, bars and eateries on increased alcohol consumption and the associated health and other problems with this (domestic violence and anti-social behaviour etc).
- In some areas, local centres are being increasingly dominated by takeaway food outlets which serve unhealthy food and often have a detrimental impact on the appearance of an area, for example, through poorly designed shop fronts and litter. Frequent consumption of unhealthy food, coupled with limited physical activity can lead to increased obesity. The Core Strategy currently makes no mention of policies to prevent the above occurring.
- There is a potential gap about references to schooling and health centres within the wider document as a whole.
- There is no mention of the importance of local communities in helping to shape service provision and delivery in their area.

Recommendations:
- Re-wording Preferred Option CS6 to promote suitable night-time uses within Knowsley's existing town centres, which will encourage social interaction and cultural activities.
- That additional work is undertaken and local evidence gathered around the issues relating to hot food takeaways within the borough, and the opportunities to tackle this problem through the planning process are explored, dependent upon the outcome of the local evidence. It is recognised that this may be better addressed within a subsequent LDF document to the Core Strategy alongside other mechanisms, e.g. licensing restrictions.
- Links to the borough wide Child Health Strategy could be made to highlight issues relating to access to public services for future generations.
- Potential gaps in references to schooling and health centres within the wider document should be considered, including service provision and accessibility.

- Greater flexibility about use of public buildings, for example schools, could be employed to ensure service delivery at a level accessible to communities. Opportunities should be taken to explore how to promote this through the Core Strategy, subsequent LDF documents and potentially other Council plans and strategies.

Conclusions

2.3.11 The workshop group noted that there had been failures in the past due to inaccessibility of services including health, retail, leisure and education within Knowsley. However, in more recent years there had been good examples of local, accessible service provision, for example, within the Halewood Centre. It was felt that this issue was critical to the success of the Local Development Framework and in general the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report encouraged accessible service provision.

2.3.12 Although some of the above recommendations may be too detailed for the Core Strategy, it is recognised that more could be done to encourage suitable night-time uses within town centres in Knowsley, and also potentially to reduce the proliferation of takeaway food outlets. The importance of the community in helping to shape service provision could also be further emphasised within the Core Strategy.

2.4 Opportunities for physical activity

2.4.1 The following extract from the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist suggests the potential impact of planning on opportunities for physical activity;

<u>"Health benefits</u>

2.4.2 Reducing dependence on vehicles and providing secure, convenient and attractive open/green space can lead to more physical exercise and reduce levels of heart disease, strokes and other ill health problems that are associated with both sedentary occupations and stressful lifestyles. Further, parks and open spaces provide 'escape facilities' for people in urban environments and help to reduce depression. The patterns of physical activity established in childhood are perceived to be a key determinant of adult behaviour; a growing number of children miss out on regular exercise, consequently access to play areas, community or sport centres can help overcome some of the associated problems. Generally access to good quality environments for physical activity is associated with increase in the frequency of its use.

<u>Positive effects of planning</u>

2.4.3 Planning can create attractive, safe and convenient environments that encourage people to walk and cycle to school, their place of work or shops as well as interact and thereby improve social and mental wellbeing. Development plans can ensure adequate recreational opportunities with equality of distribution among the community and in suitably accessible locations. Green space should be protected, created and enhanced by for example incorporating activity equipment. This requires partnership working between a variety of service providers such as healthcare, social services, education professionals, employment and environmental experts, as well as the parks and open spaces functions of the local authority. Shared knowledge and best practice examples can help inform the planning process.

<u>Potential negative impacts of planning</u>

2.4.4 Failing to protect local green spaces and playing fields near to communities can limit the opportunities for exercise. Isolated developments which do not facilitate wider community interaction can lead people to have sedentary lifestyles as well as contribute towards mental ill health. Location of housing and employment sites far away from sports, leisure or shopping facilities can contribute towards longer trip patterns and encourage excessive use of cars leading to unhealthy lifestyles."

Local context

2.4.5 Knowsley benefits from an extensive network of open countryside and green spaces. Many of the spaces are accessible to residents especially in urban areas, and provide key benefits for the environment, sustainability, opportunities for formal and informal recreation and improved health and quality of life. Some spaces provide valuable nature conservation habitats some of which are locally designated

as sites of biological and/or geological interest. The protection and/or enhancement of this network is a key issue for local people.

2.4.6 Knowsley is also well served by indoor leisure facilities, playing pitches and other outdoor sporting facilities. These include modern sports centres at Kirkby and Halewood, and facilities within the seven Centres for Learning which are available for wider community use. The development of a Leisure and Culture Park at Longview Drive, Huyton, will provide a strategic facility for the central part of the Borough, and will also include a Youth Centre.

Local need

2.4.7 Key issues in relation to open space within Knowsley include:
- Need to recognise the value of Knowsley's Green Infrastructure network to the Borough and the City Region;
- The uneven distribution of open spaces and outdoor sports provision across the Borough, also including significant variations in quality and accessibility; and
- Need to enhance the quality of some of the Borough's open spaces and outdoor sports provision e.g. playing pitches and amenity areas.

2.4.8 Key opportunities include:
- Support the Council's Greenspace Strategy;
- Support the Mersey Forest Strategy; and
- Support the implementation of the Culture and Leisure Strategy.

2.4.9 In relation to the green spaces and leisure the 2011 JSNA states that key needs for Knowsley include:
- Increased levels of physical activity within Knowsley residents, particularly young people, to improve health in general and reduce health inequalities.
- Increased levels of children and young people engaged in positive activities.
- Improved quality of place to help to make Knowsley the 'Borough of Choice' and attract inward investment, thereby enhancing the potential for thriving sustainable communities.

Relevant Preferred Options

2.4.10 Preferred Options relating to opportunities for physical activities are located within several different places within the Core Strategy, as follows;
- **CS2 Development Principles** (in part) covers opportunities for positive lifestyle choices, encouraging more sustainable modes of travel and protection and enhancement of environmental assets.
- **CS5 Green Belts** which covers new development in the Green Belt, propoals fora review of Green Belt boundaries and how to ensure a sustainable form of development.
- **CS7 Transport Networks** (in part) covers the location, design and management of new development to ensure sustainable travel.

- **CS8 Green Infrastructure** covers maintenance and enhancement of existing infrastructure, strategic green links, link to Liverpool City Region and the approach to green infrastructure and new development.
- **CS 19 Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development** (in part) covers the prioritisation of walking and cycling.
- **CS21 Urban Greenspaces** covers greenspace protection, quantitative greenspace standards, accessible and quality greenspace and tree protection and the enhancement of natural and semi-natural greenspace.

Identification of impacts

2.4.11 Potential impacts in relation to each of the above Preferred Options are outlined within this section:

CS2 Development Principles (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS2 (iii) recognises the need to promote more sustainable modes of transport including walking and cycling.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- It should be recognised that walking and cycling, although beneficial to human health, is not an appropriate means of transport for everyone and this could be emphasised within the supporting text of Preferred Option CS2.

CS5 Green Belts

Positive impacts:
- CS5 (i) states that the visual and recreational amenities of the Green Belt will be preserved which supports the HUDU evidence.
- Opening up parts of the Green Belt for new residential or employment development may have the effect of improving access to some areas of the borough for physical activity and recreation.

Potential negative impacts:
- CS5(ii) indicates that a review of current Green Belt boundaries could lead to release of sites for housing development to meet future needs. Whilst this may contribute to the provision of adequate and affordable housing to meet need within the borough, the potential impact on opportunities for physical activity and recreation (and other issues such as biodiversity and climate change issues e.g. flooding) may be significant.

Recommendations:
- That the Preferred Option be amended to highlight that a separate Health Impact Assessment could be undertaken on schemes which involve major development propoals on any 'Reserved' or 'Safeguarded' Location within the Green Belt, and that the recommendations of the HIA are incorporated within any development.
- That new development within any 'Reserved' or 'Safeguarded' Locations should retain or encourage access to adjacent open/rural areas (e.g. footpaths) and preserve as many natural features of the original character of the landscape as possible (e.g. tree-lines and hedgerows).
- To recognise that the Green Belt land is sometimes not perceived as an area which can be used for physical activity/recreation and therefore there are opportunities for colleagues within planning/regeneration and public health should work together to encourage more use of these areas and open space in general within Knowsley, also accounting for environmental considerations.

CS7 Transport Networks (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS7 (i) and (ii) seeks to ensure that 'people can get to where they want to go be a choice of walking, cycling and public transport', and promote development which is designed to prioritise walking and cycling, in line with HUDU guidance.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- CS7 (ii) could possibly be re-worded to clarify that developments should incorporate accessibility by private vehicles (in addition to parking provision), but that this is not a sustainable mode of travel.

CS8 Green Infrastructure

Positive impacts:
- CS8 (i) recognises the opportunities which Green Infrastructure provides opportunities for sports and recreation within walking distance of housing and amenities. However, it is felt that this could go further by recognising that opportunities for physical activity are much more wide ranging, for example, through formal and informal play and as a means of accessing employment and services, etc.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That re-wording of Preferred Option CS8 is undertaken to ensure that the full range of opportunities for physical activity within the borough's Green

Infrastructure is recognised, for example, through play and as a means of accessing employment and services.

- That other important factors and functions of the Green Infrastructure are recognised within the supporting text of CS8 including allowing people to interact with the natural environment to promote mental wellbeing.

CS19 Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS19 (4) encourages the development of places which aid with social interaction and opportunities for physical activity, which is strongly recommended through best practice. It also recognises the need to protect biodiversity and integrate local habitats which again is welcomed.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS21 Urban Greenspaces

Positive impacts:
- CS21 (i) aims to protect physical linkages between greenspaces which will aid opportunities for physical activity.
- Provision of open space specifically for children and young people is also recognised. This supports evidence relating to the importance in establishing physical activity patterns within children and young people.
- Provision of allotments is seen as important. Allotments often provide opportunities for physical activity for the elderly, and can also be important contributors for mental health and wellbeing, and encourage social interaction.
- CS21 (iii) recognises safety, maintenance and conservation of natural features as important factors within the use of greenspace.
- The focus on quality of greenspace over quantity is welcomed.
- Developer contributions to provision of open space are also welcomed; however, care should be taken to ensure that the space provided is of a decent size and quality. In some areas it may be more beneficial for developers to contribute to the upkeep of an established open space in the area, rather than provide several small areas which may not be well used.

Potential negative impacts:
- There are potential negative impacts associated with small un-used greenspaces. Lack of proper management and maintenance of these sites may also be a problem and deter people from using them.

Recommendations:

- That linkages between Preferred Option CS21 and the Knowsley Rights of Way programme are made, possibly within the supporting text of CS21.
- That CS21 be amended to note that developer contributions should be used in the most appropriate way i.e. provision of new open space or contribution to the maintenance or improvement of established green space within the area.

Additional comments

Positive impacts:
None

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That reference is made within the Core Strategy to the borough's Leisure and Culture Strategy.

Conclusions

2.4.12 The workshop group in general felt that the Core Strategy Preferred Options generally encouraged opportunities for physical activity within the borough. Some minor recommendations were made around re-wording certain areas to ensure, for example, that both recreational (sports and leisure) and functional (play and accessing work or services) opportunities for physical activity are recognised.

2.4.13 The main potential negative impact of the Core Strategy on opportunities for physical activity would be the release of land within the Green Belt for development. However, it is recommended that significant sites released for major redevelopment be subject to separate Health Impact Assessment process and also, that steps are taken to ensure that any development retains or improves access to surrounding rural areas, as appropriate.

2.5 Air, Noise and Neighbourhood Amenity

2.5.1 The following extract from the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist suggests the potential impact of planning on air, noise and neighbourhood amenity;

Health benefits
2.5.2 The health benefits of improved air quality include a reduced incidence of chronic lung disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) and heart conditions and, probably, reduced levels of asthma among children. Noise pollution can have detrimental impact on health via hearing impairment, sleep disturbance, cardiovascular and psycho-physiological effects. Appropriate insulation can contribute towards lessening of the impact of noise. The availability of amenity space can facilitate physical activity by encourage people to go outside and walk thereby increasing people's physical activity rate and sense of general wellbeing.

Positive effects of planning
2.5.3 Planning can significantly influence land use by ensuring detailed assessment of air pollution and noise, as well as help to segregate polluting and noisy uses from residential areas. It can safeguard or enhance green space to act as 'green lungs' for the community as well as implement tree planting in context of developments to buffer areas from noise. It can ensure good quality neighbourhood amenity space is incorporated into developments, deter car use and restrict lorries to specific routes to avoid contributing towards air pollution for example near schools or town centres.

Potential negative impacts of planning
2.5.4 Poor air quality results in part from ineffective land use and transport strategies, this can lead to high levels of road traffic and factories for instance polluting residential areas. Extensive research demonstrates that living in proximity to busy roads is linked to negative health outcomes resulting from vehicle emissions. The absence of good-neighbour policy can mean that residents and workers are subject to excessive noise and unpleasant fumes. Further visually arid environments with regards to amenity space can undermine wellbeing by not being welcoming or pleasant causing people to stay at home and not go out and be physically active thereby contributing towards illness in the long run.

Local context

2.5.5 Air quality is generally good and there are no Air Quality Management Areas within Knowsley.

2.5.6 In terms of neighbourhood amenity Knowsley benefits from an extensive network of open countryside and green spaces. Many of the spaces are accessible to residents especially in urban areas, and provide key benefits for the environment, sustainability, opportunities for formal and informal recreation and improved health and quality of life.

2.5.7 Some spaces provide valuable nature conservation habitats some of which are locally designated as sites of biological and/or geological interest. The protection and/or enhancement of this network is a key issue for local people.

2.5.8 Knowsley's built environment contains a variety of 20th century and older development. The newer parts of these towns are characterised by their suburban character typical of urban development from the 1920s and 1930s as well as more recent municipal and private sector estates. Whilst this contributes to a significant local sense of place and community in parts of the Borough, there is a relatively uniform and/or indistinct built environment in some of the 20th century housing and industrial areas. There is however a strong local sense of place evident in some of the older parts of the Borough based for example on the use of local red sandstone, welsh slate and red brick in the buildings.

2.5.9 Knowsley contains 121 individual listed structures, of which one is Grade I, four are Grade II*, and 116 are Grade II. The listed buildings range from large buildings of grandeur, such as Knowsley Hall, to structures like railway bridges. There are no listed buildings in Knowsley on the national buildings at risk register.

2.5.10 Knowsley has fifteen Conservation Areas, two of which are considered by English Heritage to be at risk and in a condition which could deteriorate. In addition, three of the Conservation Areas are designated as "Article 4" areas where the planning controls over even minor developments are tighter than elsewhere. The Council has published Conservation Area Appraisals which identify the key characteristics of each area and any changes (e.g. to key buildings or the streetscape) which have occurred since their designation.

Local need

2.5.11 Key issues in relation to neighbourhood amenity within Knowsley include:
- Need to recognise the value of Knowsley's Green Infrastructure network to the Borough and the City Region;
- The uneven distribution of open spaces and outdoor sports provision across the Borough, also including significant variations in quality and accessibility; and
- Need to enhance the quality of some of the Borough's open spaces and outdoor sports provision e.g. playing pitches and amenity areas.
- Need to maintain and enhance current historic environment assets;
- Two of the Borough's Conservation Areas are considered to be at risk; and
- The relatively uniform character of the built environment in some parts of the Borough.

2.5.12 Key opportunities include:
- Support the Council's Greenspace Strategy;
- Support the Mersey Forest Strategy; and
- Support the implementation of the Leisure and Culture Strategy.

- Support actions to strengthen local sense of place, variety, wellbeing and distinctiveness through a stronger approach to design of new development.

2.5.13 In relation to amenity space the 2011 JSNA states that key needs for Knowsley include;
- Increased levels of physical activity within Knowsley residents, particularly young people, to improve health in general and reduce health inequalities.
- Increased opportunities that bring people together and help people to support themselves and develop stronger citizenship; creating safer more cohesive communities and preventing poor health and wellbeing.
- Increased levels of children and young people engaged in physical activities.
- Improved quality of place to help to make Knowsley the 'Borough of Choice' and attract inward investment, thereby enhancing the potential for thriving sustainable communities.

Relevant Preferred Options

2.5.14 Preferred Options relating to air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity are located within several different places within the Core Strategy, as follows;
- **CS2 Development Principles** (in part) covers the recognition of environmental limits, protection and enhancement of environmental assets, local character and quality of place.
- **CS8 Green Infrastructure** which covers maintenance and enhancement of existing infrastructure, strategic green links, link to Liverpool City Region and the approach to Green Infrastructure and new development.
- **CS19 Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development** (in part) covers the opportunities to enhance local distinctiveness and identity of places.
- **CS20 Managing Heritage** covers preservation and enhancement of historical and architectural assets.
- **CS21 Urban Greenspaces** covers greenspace protection, quantitative greenspace standards, accessible and quality greenspace and tree protection and the enhancement of natural and semi-natural greenspace.

Identification of impacts:

2.5.15 Potential impacts in relation to each of the above Preferred Options are outlined within this section:

CS2 Development Principles (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS2 (iv) encourages new development which protects and enhances environmental assets and enhances local character and quality of place. This is clearly in line with the overall guidance from HUDU.

Potential negative impacts:
- There is a lack of specific guidance in relation to noise pollution, which given the borough has two motorways running through it, should not be overlooked. Evidence suggests that noise can have a significant detrimental impact on human health.

Recommendations:
- Whilst the principle that new development will have 'no negative impact upon flood risk, air quality, etc' is commendable, and a positive in terms of human health, it is questionable how realistic this is and how it would be measured and implemented. It is therefore recommended that this be reworded to take account of these issues.
- More specific guidance on noise levels should be included where appropriate (i.e. within the Core Strategy or Supplementary Planning Documents). Work to be undertaken with the Scientific Officer to make links to the Merseyside Noise Policy.

CS8 Green Infrastructure

Positive impacts:
- CS8 (i) aims to maintain and enhance existing Green Infrastructure to ensure more attractive and cleaner residential neighbourhoods, promote biodiversity and preserve the character of historic environments. This is clearly in line with relevant evidence within the HUDU and is therefore a positive.
- The need to increase community access to greenspace is also recognised within CS8, which is a positive. However, it is felt that more could be made of opportunities for the community to become more involved in the use and management of greenspaces, for example, through joining/forming 'Friends of' groups, undertaking maintenance and community growing projects etc. This will allow communities to take more ownership of open spaces, and provide opportunities for increasing skill-levels and mental wellbeing.

Potential negative impacts:
- CS8 does not currently actively promote open space for local food production. Although it is recognised that this is not a high priority for the borough at the moment, in 2027 demand may be significantly higher, and the policy should allow for this.

Recommendations:
- That other important factors and functions of Green Infrastructure are recognised within Preferred Option CS8 including it's function as a buffer zone to reduce the impact of air and/or noise pollution.
- That opportunities for increased community involvement are explored, although this could be considered as part of the overarching Preferred Options of CS1 or CS2.

- That reference to areas for local food production is made either within the policy itself or within the supporting text.

CS 19 Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development (in part)

Positive impacts:
- Reference to new development which integrates the positive characteristics of surrounding areas and the recognition that well designed places have an impact on social integration is welcomed and in line with HUDU evidence.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That reference is made within CS19 (1) to the importance of responding to, complementing and integrating views and scenery, particularly of natural landscapes, possibly within the supporting text.
- That reference to 'unacceptable impacts' as stated in CS19 (7) is further explained within the Preferred Option itself or the supporting text.
- That potential conflicts between aesthetic design quality and environmentally friendly design are explored and tackled, potentially within the Design Quality in New Development Supplementary Planning Document.

CS20 Managing Heritage

Positive impacts:
- CS20 is well received and seen as a positive for the health of the borough, particularly in encouraging the re-use of vacant historic assets and introduction of public access.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- There is potential conflict between improving the energy efficiency of a historic building, whilst also preserving its character. However, often older buildings can be colder with higher levels of damp and draughts than modern housing. This can be detrimental to human health, particularly, the elderly and vulnerable. It is felt that CS20 should state the need to improve the energy efficiency of historic buildings where this is appropriate, whilst accounting for conservation requirements. Further guidance about this could be given within the Design Quality in New Development Supplementary Planning Document.

CS21 Urban Greenspaces

Positive impacts:

- CS21 is seen as having an overall positive impact on health by encouraging greenspace protection and recognising the need for all members of the community to access it. Maintenance and conservation of natural features are also seen as positives.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

Additional comments
None

Conclusions

2.5.16 In general the Core Strategy reflects the HUDU evidence which indicates the importance of preserving neighbourhood amenity, particularly through the protection and provision of greenspace and retaining the character of the local environment, particularly the historic environment. It is recommended that some minor changes are made to better reflect opportunities for community involvement within green spaces and the importance of tackling energy efficiency within historic buildings.

2.5.17 It was also felt that the Core Strategy could be stronger in relation to noise pollution, for example, by referencing the Merseyside Noise Policy where appropriate, possibly in the supporting text of the document. Work with the Scientific Officer should be undertaken to facilitate this.

2.6   Accessibility and transport

2.6.1   The following extract from the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist suggests the potential impact of planning on accessibility and transport and health;

Health benefits

2.6.2   Easy, well orientated and walk-able access to a range of services and facilities minimises the need to travel and provides greater opportunities for social interaction. Buildings and spaces that are easily accessible and safe also encourage all groups to use them including the elderly and people with disability. This helps with general and mental wellbeing. Reducing dependence on cars and motorised forms of travel can lead to more physical exercise and reduce levels of heart disease and other chronic illnesses.

Positive effects of planning

2.6.3   Planning can improve places with regard to inclusive design, access, orientation and streetscape. Manual for Streets provides useful guidance for those involved in planning and design. Planning can improve the choice of different transport modes available, in particular by making local facilities more accessible to people walking, cycling and using public transport. Cycling and walking networks can be promoted and traffic calmed to help reduce vehicle speeds in residential as well as town centre areas and lessen rates of severe accidents. Additionally, establishment of HomeZones and community involvement in the creation of the built environment can create a sense of ownership and community empowerment which helps to enhance community safety.

Potential negative impacts of planning

2.6.4   Poor planning can restrict or hinder access in terms of orientation and layout of places and buildings, further it can restrict access to a range of services and facilities leading to disadvantage for certain groups in the community, such as the elderly, women, children and people with impairments. Additionally shopping facilities located outside of walk-able town centre areas not only increase car dependency but can also reduce retail options and economic vitality of town centres.

Local context

2.6.5   Knowsley has good transport links which facilitate movement of people and goods to and from the Liverpool Ports, Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Liverpool City Centre, Manchester and the rest of the country.

2.6.6   The road network includes the M62, A580 (East Lancashire Road), and A562, which provide strategic east-west routes linking Liverpool with locations to the east including Manchester, Warrington and the national motorway network. The M57/A5300 provides a major north to south road route through the centre of Knowsley.

2.6.7 Links by public transport to Liverpool are generally good by both train and bus while those in the north to south direction through Knowsley are weaker.

2.6.8 Plans for transport improvements (both short and long term) are set out in the Third Local Transport Plan, which covers the period from 2011 until 2024.

Local need

2.6.9 Key issues in relation to transport and connectivity within Knowsley include:
- Need to enhance public transport links between Knowsley's townships and key employment areas, Whiston Hospital, and in a North-South direction through the Borough; and
- Need to ensure transport infrastructure requirements associated with future development needs and resulting from key city region projects e.g. Liverpool Super
Port, Mersey Gateway Bridge and proposed expansion of Liverpool John Lennon Airport are met.

2.6.10 Key opportunities include:
- Capitalise on the strengths of existing transport networks, including east to west connections to Liverpool and Manchester;
- Support proposals to strengthen the transport network in Knowsley; and
- Capitalise on the strengths afforded by working with neighbouring authorities on a joint Local Transport Plan.

2.6.11 In relation to transport the emerging JSNA states that key needs for Knowsley include;
- Low car ownership could indicate an increased reliance on other transport modes such as public transport, walking and cycling to access jobs and services;
- Affordability of public transport may be an issue for some residents
- Availability of public transport services which run from north to south within the Borough - although they are regular (as per the timetable) they are infrequent (e.g. half hourly services after peak hours or stop completely in the evening)
- The need to contribute to carbon reduction by providing access to sustainable modes of transport.

Relevant Preferred Options

2.6.12 Preferred Options relating to accessibility and transport are located within several different places within the Core Strategy, as follows;
- **CS2 Development Principles** (in part) covers the need to reduce travel and increase accessibility.

- **CS7 Transport Networks** covers transport and connectivity issues, in particular, the overall Transport Strategy, location, design and management of new development and strategic transport schemes and programmes.
- **CS19 Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development (in part)** covers provision of safe, secure and convenient routes for movement and integration and connectivity of new development.

Identification of impacts

2.6.13 Potential impacts in relation to each of the above Preferred Options are outlined within this section:

CS2 Development Principles (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS2 (iii) recognises the need to locate development so as to reduce the need to travel and promote safe and sustainable access for all, particularly by promoting the use of public transport, walking and cycling. This is strongly in line with HUDU evidence and therefore will have a positive impact on human health, if implemented as stated.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS7 Transport Networks

Positive impacts:
- Recognition of the need to enhance road safety is a positive impact and is welcomed, as is the continued focus on public transport, walking and cycling.
- The reference within CS7(ii) to new and emerging technologies to minimise carbon emissions is positive, however, it is felt that this could be strengthened through an additional reference to improving air quality.

Potential negative impacts:
- Potential schemes supported within CS7 such as the further development of Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Knowsley Rail Freight Terminal have the potential to impact negatively upon residents within Knowsley, for example, through increased noise and air pollution.

Recommendations:
- Although it is recognised that CS7 supports the implementation of the major projects within the Merseyside Local Transport Plan 3, reference to this

document would strengthen these links and help to ensure that all elements of the LTP3 are implemented across Knowsley.

- Clarity could be provided in relation to the definition of 'smaller scale proposals' where Transport Assessments and/or Travel Plans will not be required.
- CS7 (ii) could be strengthened by;
  - Re-wording to emphasise that it should be the developer's responsibility to ensure that their site is accessible by public transport, walking and cycling and to make the necessary improvements to local infrastructure to support this. (Links with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to also be made here).
  - Re-wording to ensure clarity over priority for sustainable modes of travel over the need of private vehicles.
  - Adding a reference to the Ensuring Choice of Travel Supplementary Planning Document.
  - Making reference to air quality within (4).
- That consideration is given to the use of/or explanation of the term 'Active Travel' within the policy or supporting text, to align with terminology within the LTP3. However, the difficulty of using language which is not an adopted planning terms is recognised.
- In order to mitigate against any negative impacts of the proposed schemes within CS7 (iii), it is proposed that Knowsley Council ensure (through requiring developers of schemes within Knowsley or lobbying those leading on the development of schemes outside the borough) that separate Health Impact Assessments are carried out on major proposals at an appropriate time.
- CS7 (iii) could also be strengthened by the addition of an extra bullet point which encourages development of multi-modal transport sites.
- Opportunities to promote community transport through CS7 should be explored, or at least, future expansion of community transport projects should not be inhibited by the proposed Preferred Option.
- CS7 could also include reference to the importance of maintenance of transport hubs in encouraging safety and use by all sectors of the community.

CS19 Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development (in part)

Positive impacts:
- Reference to provision of safe, secure and convenient routes for movement, and integration and connectivity of new development is welcomed and in line with best practice.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- The importance of creating legible environments where people can orientate themselves easily both within development sites and internally within buildings could be mentioned, either within CS19 or in the Design Quality in New Development Supplementary Planning Document.

- In addition, internal building design should reflect health objectives, for example, by placing stairs in a more prominent position than the lifts, making optimum use of views and natural light.
- Appropriate signage could also be mentioned as a means of helping people orientate themselves more easily.

Additional comments

None

Conclusions

2.6.14 It is recognised that both the PCT and Council were working towards making services within the area more accessible, for example, by use of Centres for Learning for leisure classes and multi-functional buildings such as the Halewood Centre. However, there are still problems with accessibility to some areas and facilities within the borough.

2.6.15 The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report generally promotes recognised best practice by encouraging increased accessibility for public transport, walking and cycling. Relatively minor word changes are suggested to ensure integration with the Local Transport Plan 3 and other relevant documentation, and to reflect health objectives.

2.6.16 Some concern surrounds the impact of large transport infrastructure proposals in and around the borough and the affect that they will have on the health of residents. However, it is recommended that separate Health Impact Assessments are undertaken on these major projects at an appropriate juncture to establish potential mitigatation measures against any negative impacts.

2.7 Crime Reduction and Community Safety

2.7.1 The following extract from the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist suggests the potential impact of planning on crime reduction and community safety;

Health benefits

2.7.2 Crime reduction can be enhanced by thoughtful planning and urban design, while mental wellbeing of residents can be enhanced by helping to reduce the psychological 'fear of crime'. In relation to community safety aspects such as road traffic accidents for example could be addressed by traffic calming measures in particular for vulnerable groups including the young, elderly and disabled who are at particular risk.

Positive effects of planning

2.7.3 The detailed design and layout of residential and commercial areas can ensure natural surveillance over public space that can reduce both the fear of and the actual incidence of crime. This can be assisted by creating places where people mix, enabling possibilities for community interaction and avoiding social exclusion. Further, via active use of streets, public spaces and utilisation of effective lighting there is likely to be decreased opportunities for anti-social behaviour or criminal activity. The design process can be assisted by proposals going through the Secure by Design process, a police initiative focusing on crime prevention measures in the design of developments.

Potential negative impacts of planning

2.7.4 Crime can include damage to property as well as violence, injury and other offences against the person, indirect long-term influences can include the psychological and physical consequences of injury, victimisation and isolation because of fear. Urban planning can do much to worsen or alienate the problem of safety on the streets via poor design, unfriendly environments or non-consideration of community safety. Where the local pedestrian environment is intimidating and inconvenient, people use cars, and social interaction is reduced and potential for crime enhanced.

Local context

2.7.5 The emerging JSNA suggests that recorded crimes within Knowsley have significantly reduced, although perception of crime has not fallen at the same rate and therefore remains a major issue.

2.7.6 Despite this, some areas of the borough continue to experience high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. These are generally the more deprived areas including north Huyton and Kirkby. Despite reductions in crime, North Huyton still account for around 25% of all crime and Police recorded anti-social behaviour incidents in the Borough.

2.7.7   The Knowsley Place Survey 2008 found that anti-social behaviour was perceived to be a bigger problem in Knowsley than in the North West and England overall. However, the proportion of Knowsley residents who believe that the local council and police deal with and understand local concerns about anti-social behaviour is higher than the North West and England average.

2.7.8   Nearly one third of residents perceive drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem in Knowsley. This figure is higher than the England average but less than across the North West. Nearly half of Knowsley residents perceive drug use or drug dealing as a problem. This is much higher than across the North West and England where only 35% and 31% of people respectively see these issues as a problem.

Local need

2.7.9   In relation to crime and community safety the emerging JSNA states that key needs for Knowsley include;
- Dealing with perceptions of crime and disorder in Knowsley
- Dealing with the distribution of crime and disorder in Knowsley
- Tackling particular types of crime such as offences and repeat victimisation
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Dealing with the impact of substance misuse
- The impact of health if 'you' are an offender.

Relevant Preferred Options

2.7.10 Preferred Options relating to crime and community safety are located within several different places within the Core Strategy, as follows;
- **CS2 Development Principles** (in part) covers the need for safe access for all and highway safety.
- **CS7 Transport Networks** (in part) covers road safety.
- **CS19 Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development** (in part) covers the need to create safe, secure and convenient routes for movement and minimise crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- **CS21 Urban Greenspaces** (in part) covers safety of open space.

Identification of impacts:

2.7.11 Potential impacts in relation to each of the above Preferred Options are outlined within this section:

CS2 Development Principles (in part)

Positive impacts:

- CS2 (iii) makes reference to the need for safe and sustainable access for all and also refers to the need for improved road safety, in line with the HUDU best practice.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS7 Transport Networks (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS7 (i) recognises the need to enhance road safety and improve the health and wellbeing of local people, again in line with the HUDU document.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS19 Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS19 (4) recognises the need to create places which encourage social interaction, and create surveillance of areas, reducing crime and fear of crime.
- CS19 (5) talks about the creation of safe and secure routes for movement and, within Point 8, reducing crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. This is strongly worded and is welcomed.
- CS19 (9) refers to the need for long-term management and maintenance plans to be in place. This is again important in creating areas which are well-kept and used, therefore increasing community safety.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That CS19 (8) is strengthened through reference to the principles of Secure By Design, the recognised standard for improving community safety through design. A reference to the need to create natural surveillance here or in (4) would also be welcomed.
- Reference to the need for landscaping which is appropriate for the area and given long term consideration would also reinforce the community safety priority.
- Specific reference could be made to the importance of highway design in creating streets which encourage social interaction and play e.g. Home zones

and/or the Manual for Streets (or this may be more appropriate within CS19 or within a relevant Supplementary Planning Document).

CS21 Urban Greenspaces (in part)

Positive impacts:
- Reference to safe and secure locations and maintenance of facilities within CS21 (iii) is in line with HUDU evidence.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That CS19 (8) is strengthened through reference to the principles of Secure By Design, the recognised standard for improving community safety through design, or via reference within the supporting text to CS19.
- Further links could be made with the Greenspace Strategy and the need to increase community safety within open spaces within the borough.

Additional comments

Positive impacts:
- The Private Finance Initiative to improve street lighting levels within the borough is seen as a positive in terms of health. The Core Strategy, or subsequent part of the LDF, could be strengthened by encouraging the incorporation of sensitive lighting within the design of new development including housing, business and transport hubs, to reduce opportunities for crime and fear of crime.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That the Core Strategy or subsequent LDF document include measures to encourage the incorporation of sensitive lighting within the design of new development including housing, business and transport hubs, to reduce opportunities for crime and fear of crime. It is recognised that this may be most appropriate within a relevant Supplementary Planning Document.
- That community involvement in the design of new facilities and community ownership/maintenance of open spaces and other areas be encouraged to help increase community safety, for example, through 'Friends of' groups.

Conclusions

2.7.12 Although crime levels have reduced in recent years within Knowsley, it is recognised that the physical environment within some areas can continue to encourage or

facilitate crime, for example, through Radburn housing layouts in some of the Borough's residential areas.

2.7.13 It is largely felt that the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report reflects the best practice information from HUDU in relation to Crime and Community Safety. References to safe and secure access for all, the creation of places for social interaction and the importance of maintenance are all welcomed. Some of the Preferred Options could be strengthened in this area by reference to recognised standards and concepts such as Secure By Design, Home zones and the Manual for Streets. In addition encouraging sensitive lighting within schemes and community ownership of areas could also contribute to increasing community safety.

2.8   Access to healthy food

2.8.1   The following extract from the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist suggests the potential impact of planning on access to healthy food;

<u>Health benefits</u>
2.8.2   Social gradients in the quality of diet and sources of nutrients contribute to inequality in health through the excessive consumption of for example salt, oil, energy-dense fat and sugar. Dietary goals to prevent chronic disease consistently emphasise the need to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables. People on low incomes, including young families, elderly and unemployed people, are the least able to eat well. Access to healthy and nutritious food can improve general health. Further small scale neighbourhood schemes which facilitate production of local foods can promote mental health by increasing levels of physical activity, reducing social isolation and improving self-esteem and confidence.

<u>Positive effects of planning</u>
2.8.3   By ensuring that food access and location options are considered in the planning process, including the facilitation of social enterprise, poor health conditions (including obesity and malnutrition) can be lessened by residents being able to buy food that is nutritional and affordable. Planning can assist by preserving and protecting areas for small-scale community projects, opportunities for local food production, diversity of shopping facilities in local centres, and help to alleviate individual reliance on large supermarkets, which may not be local to all residents. Retention of local allotment gardens, small holdings and development of farmers markets can also provide a convenient venue for the distribution of local and/or affordable produce.

<u>Potential negative impacts of planning</u>
2.8.4   Planning can struggle to deal with issues in relation to food especially in terms of affordability and accessibility, due to a lack of central government planning policy in this area. The centralisation of shopping facilities and growth of large supermarkets can reduce the variety of foods available locally and disadvantage those on limited income to afford a healthy diet, and hence this can exacerbate social inequity. Redevelopment of local allotment gardens or agricultural land can also lessen the potential availability of locally produced foods for residents.

Local context

2.8.5   The emerging JSNA notes that adult obesity prevalence in Knowsley is lower than both North West and National figures (respectively at 24.5% and 23.5%) and is predicted to be at 23.4% in 2010. However combined overweight and obesity rates for adults are suspected to be around 60% prevalence in the adult population of Knowsley.   Childhood obesity in Knowsley continues to be a priority area for

Knowsley. Rates of Reception year children are around 13%, but by Year 6 increases to 23%.

Local need

2.8.6 The emerging JSNA recognises that there is a continued need to prevent the onset of childhood obesity through the promotion of healthy lifestyle services and interventions. It is also recognised that in poor areas of Knowsley, access to healthy food can be a problem and cooking skills and facilities may be limited. This can make it harder to eat well, particularly on a low budget.

2.8.7 With regard to spatial planning and access to healthy food, the Core Strategy through the supporting text to policy CS6 Town Centres and Retail Strategy make reference to the absence of a major foodstore in Kirkby Town Centre, Halewood district centre and Stockbridge Village district centre, which are areas generally suffering from significant levels of deprivation.

2.8.8 It is also recognised that there is a proliferation of takeaway food outlets within some areas of the borough, for example, Kirkby, Huyton and Prescot Town Centres. According to research recently undertaken by Knowsley Council and PCT, these outlets generally serve large portions of food which is high salt, saturated fats and sugar in some cases. Other authorities are considering measures to control the increase in takeaway food outlets through the use of supplementary planning guidance, licensing restrictions and other disincentives, although these approaches are at a relatively early stage within their development.

Relevant Preferred Options

2.8.9 Preferred Options relating to access to healthy food are located within several different places within the Core Strategy, as follows;
- **CS6 Town Centres and Retail Strategy** (in part) covers New Convenience Goods Shopping.
- **CS8: Green Infrastructure** (in part) covers functions of greenspace.
- **CS21: Urban Greenspaces** (in part) make reference to allotments.

Identification of impacts

2.8.10 Potential impacts in relation to each of the above Preferred Options are outlined within this section:

CS6 Town Centres and Retail Strategy

Positive impacts:
- CS6 (iii) recognises need for new convenience retail floorspace within Kirkby town centre, Halewood and Stockbridge Village, which are some of the most deprived areas within the borough.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That opportunities to encourage the establishment of new local businesses and particularly social enterprise which encourage the provision of food within areas where access to fresh food and diet are particularly poor, are explored. However, it is recognised that this may only really be achievable where the Council owns the business premises and that this may be outside the remit of the planning process.
- That the supporting text to CS6 references the need for provision of a suitable retail environment for affordable, fresh produce, particularly in some of the more deprived areas of the borough.

Policy CS8 Green Infrastructure (in part)

Positive impacts:
None

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That reference to local food production (e.g. farms, small holdings and allotments) is added within CS8 (i) as appropriate. This will increase recognition of these issues and will also provide increased protection for allotment sites within CS21 (which refers to the protection of Green Infrastructure functions listed in CS8).

Policy CS21 Urban Greenspaces (in part)

Positive impacts:
- That a quantitative standard is set for the provision of allotments within the borough (0.05 hectares per 1000 population, within 1.6km/20minutes walk).

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

Additional comments

Positive impacts:
None

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That investigation into limiting numbers of additional takeaway food outlets within certain areas of the borough is continued, and that appropriate measures are incorporated within the Core Strategy or Supplementary Planning Documents to deal with this in future, alongside investigation of other potential restrictions e.g. licensing of premises.

Conclusions

2.8.11 It is recognised that there are difficulties in promoting access to healthy food through the Core Strategy given the lack of national planning policy and guidance relating to this area. However, it is possible that in future this issue will be much more prevalent and therefore it is important to ensure that the Core Strategy is prepared for this.

2.8.12 The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report does reflect some of the HUDU best practice around encouraging access to healthy food, for example, through the encouragement of new convenience retail within some of the most deprived areas within the borough. However, it is felt that the document could go further in recognising the importance of local food production as a function of greenspace and also in promoting markets and social enterprise within the borough. In addition, the issue of tackling takeaway food outlets should continue to be explored and appropriate measures incorporated as part of the Local Development Framework and/or other Council plans and strategies.

2.9 Access to work

2.9.1 The following extract from the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist suggests the potential impact of planning on access to work and health;

"Health Benefit
2.9.2 Job security and simply having a job can increase health and wellbeing, as well as making it easier to pursue a healthy lifestyle. Income is one of the strongest and consistent indicators of health and disease in public health research. Further, job satisfaction, a sense of making a valuable contribution and wider social networks through work are all positive health contributor factors. Conversely, unemployed people and those on low income suffer an increased risk of ill health, mental health problems and even premature death.

Positive effects of planning
2.9.3 Urban planning linked to clear strategies for economic regeneration, allocation of appropriate sites and coordination of infrastructure provision can assist by facilitating attractive opportunities for businesses, encourage diversity in employment and ensure that local jobs are retained. Equitable transport strategies can also play an important part in providing access to job opportunities. The provision of local work can encourage shorter trip lengths and thus reduce emissions from transport and enable healthy walking or cycling options to be pursued. Access to other support services, notably childcare, can make employment opportunities easier to access for a significant segment of the population.

Potential negative effects of planning
2.9.4 Planning can hamper the provision of job opportunities. Employment opportunities created in inaccessible locations or a lack of job variety in a community can negatively affect health and mental wellbeing both directly and indirectly. Further, a general lack of infrastructure can make places less competitive or attractive to business location."

Local context

2.9.5 Around 56,500 people are employed in Knowsley. Manufacturing accounts for a relatively high proportion of employment opportunities in Knowsley reflecting the importance of key sectors such as advanced manufacturing and engineering. Public services have also expanded and Whiston Hospital is one of the Borough's largest employers. The Council has recognised the need to broaden the employment base and target growth sectors including business services, ICT, creative, tourism, leisure, financial services, communications, logistics and distribution.

Local need

2.9.6 Key issues in relation to access to work within Knowsley include:

- Slowing rates of economic growth in the last few years and relative reliance on specific economic sectors (manufacturing and public services);
- Relatively low average income levels of Knowsley's residents in comparison to those working in Knowsley (implying high earners commute into Knowsley);
- Comparatively low business start up rates; and
- Constrained land supply to meet long term economic development needs.

2.9.7 Key opportunities include:
- Maximise regeneration opportunities in Knowsley Industrial Park and the other industrial areas;
- Capitalise on excellent transport accessibility of Knowsley's industrial areas by road and rail (including the Knowsley Rail Freight Terminal); and
- Maximise benefits from the Liverpool Super Port and Liverpool John Lennon Airport master plan proposals.

2.9.8 In relation to access to work the emerging JSNA states that key needs for Knowsley include;
- Increasing employment at a time of reducing support services and potential job losses, particularly (but not solely) in the Public Sector;
- Reducing benefits claims; and
- Increasing work skills and educational attainment.

Relevant Preferred Options

2.9.9 Preferred Options relating to access to work are located within several different places within the Core Strategy, as follows;
- **CS1 Spatial Strategy for Knowsley** (in part) covers the spatial development priorities and principal regeneration areas within the borough.
- **CS2 Development Principles** (in part) covers the need to increase business productivity and employment within Knowsley.
- **CS4 Economy and Employment** which covers the overall Employment Development Strategy, the scale and distribution of development for employment uses, phasing and release of land for employment uses, town centre employment uses and the safeguarding of existing employment land.
- **CS7 Transport Networks** which covers proposals for the maintenance and enhancement of transportation networks in Knowsley and across the City-region, including access to employment areas.

Identification of impacts

2.9.10 Potential impacts in relation to each of the above Preferred Options are outlined within this section:

CS1 Spatial Strategy for Knowsley (in part)

Positive impacts:

- The enhancement of existing employment sites and provision of a range of sites and premises for new employment clearly supports the creation of new jobs within the borough. In addition the support for new development within Principal Regeneration Areas encourages the creation of jobs within some of the more deprived areas of the borough where unemployment is currently high. These overarching measures support the best practice outlined within HUDU document.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS2 Development Principles (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS2 supports improving business productivity and employment levels and reducing economic inequalities within Knowsley and other parts of the UK. This again supports advice given in the HUDU document.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS4 Economy and Employment

Positive impacts:
- CS4 promotes the provision of land to meet employment development needs, improved accessibility to a range of jobs through improved transport linkages and addressing skills and educational barriers.   This strongly supports the HUDU best practice.
- Encouraging the zoning of employment uses within CS4 (ii) can support additional services within areas such as public transport and childcare.
- CS4 (iv) promotes the location of "town centre" employment uses, primarily within existing town centres, which will ensure the accessibility of these locations. In addition employment in these areas will also support the viability of town centre and support additional services which employees may required, for example, child care and health services.

Potential negative impacts:
- CS4 contains the caveat that Green Belt land could be used for employment uses, where principles set out in CS2 and CS5 are met. Depending on the location of these sites, there may be significant implications around the accessibility of the

jobs created for those without access to a vehicle, as well as other issues around the impact on biodiversity, etc. These issues are explored further in different sections of this report and it is therefore recommended that further Health Impact Assessment work is carried out on major developments on sites proposed for review and potential release from the Green Belt for employment or other uses.

Recommendations:
- That further Health Impact Assessment work is carried out on major developments on sites proposed for review and potential release from the Green Belt for employment or other uses.
- That a reference be made to 'an appropriate range of high quality jobs' within CS4 (i) Point 3 to emphasise the need for high quality employment within the borough.
- That within CS4 (iii), accessibility by sustainable modes of transport is made a factor within the proposed phasing of release of land for employment uses. In addition, that this section is expanded to include ensuring a supply of business start-up premises around the borough.
- That opportunities to provide additional services which employees may require such as childcare and health care are encouraged within employment areas such as industrial and businesses parks which are away from traditional town centres.
- That the need to promote new and emerging types of businesses e.g. the Knowledge Economy is encouraged, in order to diversify the range of jobs available within the area.
- That opportunities to encourage working from home and improvements within digital communications and telecommunication should be explored (although possibly within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Design Quality in New Development or other Supplementary Planning Document, as appropriate).
- That reference to the Council's emerging Economic Regeneration Strategy is mentioned where and if appropriate.

CS7 Transport Networks

Positive impacts:
- CS7 supports the principles of accessibility to employment areas by a range of travel modes, in line with HUDU best practice and the requirement of larger developments to have transport assessment and/or travel plans.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

Addition comments
None

Conclusions

2.9.11 During the break out sessions the group recognised the need for a long term corporate approach to job provision within the area. It was also noted that the borough is reliant on a number of large employers and could therefore benefit from opportunities to diversify and encourage new businesses and entrepreneurship.

2.9.12 In general the Core Strategy largely supports the principles within the HUDU guidance relating to access to work, by ensuring that employment opportunities are directed to both existing employment areas and also areas with high levels of unemployment. This is supported by clear encouragement of sustainable mode of transport to access these areas. However, it is felt that the Core Strategy could go further by further promoting the development of new emerging employment sectors, social enterprise and business start up, and the need for employment areas to be supported by additional services such as childcare.

2.9.13 The possible release of land currently within the Green Belt for employment uses raises some concerns in terms of accessibility and, as mentioned previously, further Health Impact Assessment work could be done on any major sites within this category as and when they come forward for development.

2.10 Social Cohesion and Social Capital

2.10.1 The following extract from the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist suggests the potential impact of planning on social cohesion and social capital;

"Health benefits

2.10.2 Friendship and supportive networks throughout the community can help the individual at home and at work by reducing depression and chronic illness as well as speed recovery after illness. This can lead to greater fulfilment. Fragmentation of social structure can lead to ghettos according to socio-economic status, age and race and this can contribute to isolation and insecurity. Poor health and premature death can be reduced by cutting levels of poverty. The harm to health comes not only from material deprivation but also from the social and psychological problems of living in poverty especially for those who are elderly. Voluntary groups for instance can support those that are isolated and disconnected, and provide meaningful interaction which builds social capital.

Positive effects of planning

2.10.3 Urban planning cannot create local community or cohesive social networks. However, social cohesion can be facilitated by creating safe and permeable environments with natural social foci where people can meet informally. Mixed-use developments in town centres and commercial environments as well as residential neighbourhoods can help widen social options. The provision of a range of diverse local employment opportunities (paid and unpaid) can also improve both social cohesion and social capital.

Potential negative impacts of planning

2.10.4 Social cohesion can be undermined by insensitive housing redevelopment and dispersal of residential communities. It is also undermined by roads severing community links and constructing barriers to pedestrian connectivity and by larger, intimidating commercial schemes. Planning may result in the loss of community facilities for other uses. Planning does not directly affect income but does have many indirect effects. The planning system can be used, for example, to hinder or to help the process of providing a range of facilities and providing opportunities for improving levels of equity in areas such as housing and employment."

Local context

2.10.5 Knowsley's Place Survey 2008 indicates that 57.9% of residents feel they belong to their neighbourhood. However this figure is less than the North West and England averages (59.5% and 58.7% respectively). Nearly three quarters of residents (72.2%) are satisfied with their local area, but again this figure is less than the North West (76.9%) and England (79.7%). The majority of residents over 65 are satisfied with their home and neighbourhood (83.9%), and the proportion is higher than the North West average (82.5%) and the same as the England average.

2.10.6 Only 14% of respondents help out by participating in regular volunteering. This is 6% less than across the North West and 7% lower than the England average. Only 1 in 10 residents get involved in groups that make decisions that affect their local area. Again this figure is less than the North West and England averages.

2.10.7 The percentage of people in Knowsley who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area is 71.9%, slightly below the North West and England average (73.6% and 76.4% respectively). However, the proportion that believe people in the area treat one another with respect and consideration (45.9%) is higher than the North West (34.9%) and England (31.9%). Approximately 20% of residents in Knowsley agree that parents take responsibility for the behaviour of their children; this is 10% below the England average of 30%.

2.10.8 Nearly one third of residents (32.2%) perceive the support received by older people to be enough for them to live independently. This figure is higher than both the averages across the North West (31.9%) and England (30%).

2.10.9 The 2009 North West Mental Wellbeing Survey suggests that low levels of mental wellbeing can be linked to wider factors, as detailed through the emerging JSNA. The WEMWBS survey suggests that Knowsley residents have relatively low mental wellbeing, have relatively low incomes, are generally less likely to have healthy lifestyles and are more like to be unemployed. Residents are also less likely to join sports clubs, religious groups or educational groups. However, the survey also showed that Knowsley residents report positively in many indicators used to demonstrate area or community wellbeing such as local identity and belonging, satisfaction with their local area, feeling safe in their home at night and outdoors in the day. They had the highest likelihood of talking regularly with neighbours, being able to find help in a crisis and likelihood of finding help if ill.

Local need

2.10.10 The emerging Core Strategy recognises the need to;
- Narrow the gap in levels between deprived areas and other parts of Knowsley in terms of both income and social capital.
- Ensure new development supports community involvement, cohesion, cultural activities and self-improvement, in order to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing within Knowsley.

2.10.11 Key opportunities include;
- The ability for local residents to make informed lifestyle choices and participate in community activities

Relevant Preferred Options

2.10.12 Preferred Options relating to social cohesion and social capital are located within several different places within the Core Strategy, as follows;

- **CS2 Development Principles** (in part) deals with reducing social inequalities.
- **CS15 Delivering Affordable Housing** (in part) covers the delivery of affordable housing which is integrated within market sector housing.
- **CS16 Specialist and Supported Accommodation** (in part) aims to develop integrated social well-being, housing and planning strategies which seek to holistically address specialist housing needs and demands.
- **CS18 Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople** (in part), deals with integration of communities.
- **CS19 Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development** (in part) covers the need to create areas for social interaction
- **CS27 Planning for and Paying for New Infrastructure** (in part) deals with funding for community facilities as part of developments.

Identification of impacts

2.10.13 Potential impacts in relation to each of the above Preferred Options are outlined within this section:

CS2 Development Principles (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS2 refers to the need to tackle the causes of deprivation and disadvantage and narrow the gap between the richest and poorest neighbourhoods, including through reducing inequality. These overarching principles are in line with HUDU best practice.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS15 Delivering Affordable Housing (in part)

Positive impacts:
- The recognition that affordable housing should be fully integrated with and not distinguishable from market housing is a positive in terms of social cohesion.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS16 Specialist and Supported Accommodation (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS16 encourages support for non-accommodation based interventions, intended to achieve sustainable independence for individuals but also social well-being strategies which seek to holistically address specialist housing needs and demands. This encourages social cohesion and capital in line with HUDU best practice.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS18: Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS18 aims to ensure that accommodation is located in appropriate areas for a recognised vulnerable group within society.
- Future management and maintenance of sites is considered in line with HUDU evidence.

Potential negative impacts:
- Sites may be perceived as having a negative impact by surrounding communities, therefore leading to possible community cohesion issues which may negatively affect the wellbeing of all communities affected.

Recommendations:
- Preferred Option CS18 could outline the opportunities presented by planning and health colleagues working together to address social exclusion issues and provide outreach and other services to the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities within the area where appropriate.

CS19 Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development (in part)

Positive impacts:
- The importance of creating places which encourage social interaction is recognised and this can not only reduce crime but encourage community cohesion.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS27 Planning for and Paying for New Infrastructure

Positive impacts:
- CS27 sets out how new infrastructure will be planned and paid for, including the requirement of developer contributions for the provision of on-site infrastructure to support new development and strategic infrastructure to support local communities and borough-wide development. These contributions could be highly beneficial to local communities, however, limited information is currently given about how this money will be allocated and spent.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), when developed in full, properly reflects the needs of local communities and ensures that developer contributions are allocated and spent in ways which will support improvements to social cohesion and capital. In addition, local communities should also be involved in the development of the IDP where appropriate, through public consultation and involvement in stakeholder groups.

Additional comments

Positive impacts:
None

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That increased community engagement is undertaken within all aspects of regeneration, investment and development. Opportunities for this include through the design of new buildings and service provision and through investment and long-term maintenance of parks and open spaces ('Friends of' groups, allotment groups etc). This should be encouraged throughout the Core Strategy as a whole.
- Leisure and cultural facilities can also provide a focus for social interaction, and increased reference to these facilities could be made through out the Core Strategy.
- That further encouragement is given to new start up businesses and social enterprise, for example, within CS4; and also, voluntary and community groups such as 'Friends of' groups within CS8 and CS21.
- That consideration is given to where there is a need for new community facilities and where consolidation and investment is required in other areas. It is recognised that this is an area which the Council may not have tackled on a borough wide basis yet and therefore would be difficult to convert into policy at this stage.

Conclusions

2.10.14 Discussions within the breakout group responsible for social cohesion and social capital focused around the varying ability of communities within the borough to help themselves, amidst increasing pressure from central government for communities to reduce reliance on the public sector and move towards community-led solutions.

2.10.15 In relation to the HUDU evidence, the Core Strategy will help to promote social cohesion through the design of new housing and open space. However, it is suggested that more could be done to promote community engagement within the development of new plans and proposals, and community involvement within the future management of areas, in particular open space. Encouragement of social enterprise and start-up businesses would also be a positive, along with a recognised strategic approach to the provision of new community facilities and investment in others.

2.11 Resource Minimisation

2.11.1 The following extract from the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist suggests the potential impact of planning on resource minimisation and health;

"Health benefits

2.11.2 Reducing or minimising waste including disposal, processes for construction as well as encouraging recycling at all levels potentially not only improves the quality of the environment but can also improve human health directly and indirectly.

Positive effects of planning

2.11.3 Planning can impose standards and criteria on new developments involving hazardous waste disposal, recycling and domestic waste. It can ensure that hazardous waste is disposed of correctly, as well as ensure that local recycled and renewable materials are used whenever possible in the building construction process. Redevelopment on brownfield sites or derelict urban land also ensures that land is effectively used, recycled and enhanced. Through encouraging reduction, reuse and recycling, resource minimisation can be better realised and contribute towards a better environment. Examples of various standards to consider include BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and CEEQUAL (Civil Engineering Environmental Quality assessment) which are benchmarking tools for non-residential buildings and infrastructure projects.

Potential negative impacts of planning

2.11.4 If left unchecked, disposal of significant hazardous waste can have serious impacts on health on those communities living near to collection or disposal sites. In context of redevelopment sending out waste to be sorted or disposed from a site can increase vehicle movements, emissions and cause significant disruption including noise and dust which can contribute towards health problems for residents. There are also ecological impacts (striping of materials, mining for minerals etc) through excessive use of resources from a scarce global environment."

Local context

2.11.5 The Liverpool City Region (including Knowsley) produces significant amounts of municipal, commercial and industrial, construction, agricultural and hazardous waste. The Council is currently preparing a joint waste plan with sub-regional partners, which will guide the scale, location and type of facilities required to manage all types of waste in Merseyside and Halton. This will include identifying proposed sites to be allocated in each authority area for development of new waste management and treatment facilities.

2.11.6 The biological and chemical quality of the rivers in the Borough has improved but is still some way short of the regional average.

2.11.7 Knowsley has a long history of extraction of minerals such as coal and clay for brick making. With the exception of Cronton Clay Pit, the operations have now ceased.

Local need

2.11.8 Key issues in relation to resource minimisation within Knowsley include:
- Need to support the emerging Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Development Plan Document to tackle waste management and reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill;
- Potential need to safeguard minerals resources to allow possible future extraction.

2.11.9 Key opportunities include:
- Maintain and improve environmental assets and current environmental quality levels.

Relevant Preferred Options

2.11.10 Preferred Options relating to minimising resources are located within several different places within the Core Strategy, as follows;
- **CS2 Development Principles** (in part) covers making the most efficient use of available infrastructure and resources.
- **CS22 Sustainable and Low Carbon Development** (in part) covers the promotion of sustainable waste behaviour.
- **CS25 Management of Mineral Resources** covers minimising the need for mineral extraction, mineral safeguarding areas and proposals for mineral extraction.
- **CS26 Waste Management** covers the management of waste within the borough.

Identification of impacts

2.11.11 Potential impacts in relation to each of the above Preferred Options are outlined within this section:

CS2 Development Principles

Positive impacts:
- CS2 (v) encourages the most efficient use of available resources by supporting proposals which make the most of existing infrastructure networks, that support prudent and efficient management of natural and man-made resources and promote sustainable construction and efficiency in resource use. This fully supports evidence within the HUDU checklist.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
None

CS22 Sustainable and Low Carbon Development (in part)

Positive impacts:
- CS22 (i) promotes sustainable waste behaviour in new and existing development in line with HUDU guidance.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That CS22 (i) make reference to the efficient re-use of materials and use of recycled materials within developments.

CS25 Management of Mineral Resources

Positive impacts:
- By encouraging minimisation of the need for mineral extraction, CS25 supports best practice from the HUDU. However, it is felt that the Preferred Options could be strengthened as outlined below.

Potential negative impacts:
- CS25 (ii) and (iii) suggests that there is potential for future mineral extraction within the borough and/or development within areas where there may be future mineral extraction. In either case there would be potential for negative health impacts on the surrounding area through increased noise, dust, vibrations and vehicular movement and therefore any major development proposal of this nature should be subject to future Health Impact Assessment work as part of the planning application process.

Recommendations:
- That CS25 (i) the requirement for 'a proportion of construction aggregates…from recycled or secondary sources' is strengthened to say 'a *significant* proportion' or something similar.
- That major future mineral extraction work and/or major development within areas of existing or proposed mineral extraction (e.g. backfilling) be subject to separate Health Impact Assessments.

CS26 Waste Management

Positive impacts:
- By promoting sustainable waste management through good design within new developments, use of recycled materials and sustainable transport of waste, Preferred Option CS26 adheres to the guidance set out by the HUDU.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That within CS26 (3), 're-use' of materials is added to strengthen this point.
- That within CS26 (5), the term 'impacts' are further explained, for example, would it be clearer to state 'negative impacts' or maybe explain what these impacts may be.

Additional comments

Positive impacts:
None

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That reference within the Core Strategy is made to prioritising the redevelopment of brown field land, not just land within existing urban areas. This may be most appropriate within CS1 or CS2 and could be reinforced within policy CS22 or CS26.

Conclusions

2.11.12 Best practice within the HUDU checklist is largely recognised in relation to resource minimisation within the Core Strategy. Reference to efficient use of natural and man-made resources, sustainable waste management and sustainable transport of waste confirm that the wider impacts of resource minimisation have been considered. This area could be strengthened slightly with the recognition that 're-using' materials is also an important aspect of resource minimisation and through a reference to the development of brown field sites over green field sites.

2.12 Climate Change

2.12.1 The following extract from the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist suggests the potential impact of planning on climate change and health;

"Health benefits
2.12.2 Climate change will cause warmer winters and hotter summers. Addressing climate change including mitigation measures and carbon stewardship can therefore potentially help to reduce the health impacts of climate change, including vulnerability to flooding and vulnerable groups (such as the elderly) becoming ill as a result of extreme cold or heat. Developments that take advantage of sunlight, tree planting and accessible green/brown roofs also have the potential to contribute towards mental wellbeing of residents.

Positive effects of planning
2.12.3 Urban planning can affect the rates of human activity including, for example emission of greenhouse gases, by influencing energy use in buildings, transport and by developing renewable energy sources. Building sustainability and environmental considerations in at the early planning stage of a project and use of standards such as the Code for Sustainable Homes will help achieve economic, social and environmental goals simultaneously. Using sustainability as a key principle will create smarter and more successful plans and projects.

Potential negative impacts of planning
2.12.4 Planning can contribute to climatic problems by failing to consider policies related to location, materials, designs or technologies which help to reduce energy consumption (using sunlight, energy conservation in construction, thermal insulation of buildings, etc.) or reduce the environmental impact of energy generation. Further, building on flood plain areas may also lead to potential increased risk of flooding, while non-consideration of micro-climate could contribute to development which is neither suitable nor adaptable for its environment."

Local context

2.12.5 Knowsley contains 306 ha of land which has a high or medium risk of flooding. The majority of the areas are in the Green Belt and only just over one percent of properties in the urban area are affected.

Local need

2.12.6 Key issues in relation to climate change within Knowsley include:
- Need to consider the implications of flood risk in locating and phasing new development.
- Implications of hotter summers/more heat waves and how this can be addressed within developments

- The need to reduce carbon emissions from development in Knowsley, to play our part in reducing the impact of future climate change and related health impacts?

2.12.7 Key opportunities include:
- Maintain and improve environmental assets and current environmental quality levels.
- Reduce energy requirements of new development

Relevant Preferred Options

2.12.8 Preferred Options relating to minimising resources are located within several different places within the Core Strategy, as follows;
- **CS2 Development Principles** (in part) covers reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change.
- **CS22 Sustainable and Low Carbon Development** which covers sustainable construction principles, sustainable construction targets, priority zones and decentralised energy networks, carbon compensation fund and planning application requirements.
- **Policy CS23 Renewable and Low Carbon Infrastructure**
- **Policy CS24 Managing Flood Risk**

Identification of impacts

2.12.9 Potential impacts in relation to each of the above Preferred Options are outlined within this section:

CS2 Development Principles (in part)
Positive impacts:
- CS2 (ii) encourages development which overall will reduce carbon emissions, be adaptable to the impact of climate change and future national targets, in line with the HUDU guidance.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That reference to the North West Sustainability Checklist for Developments is changed to something more current (the North West Regional Assembly has now been disbanded), for example, a reference to the Sustainability in Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Guidance or national recognised standard such as the Code for Sustainable Homes or BREEAM.
- That reference to the use of 'new technology' in order to reduce emissions is considered.

CS22 Sustainable and Low Carbon Development

Positive impacts:
- In encouraging considerate and efficient design of new development, including limiting energy use, efficient use of landscaping and water, and renewable energy, CS22 is in accordance with HUDU best practice.
- The introduction of sustainable construction targets, through the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM is also seen as a positive, in particular with housing built after 2016 to be 'zero carbon'.
- Reference to the encouragement of decentralised energy networks is welcomed, however, opportunities to strengthen this paragraph to ensure that major developments actually install such technology should be considered.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That in addition to 'local suppliers', reference is also made to 'local materials' within (7). This will not only support local businesses but will also ensure that materials do not use large amount of carbon through the transportation process.
- That a reference to encouraging active travel (walking and cycling) through the design, layout and location of development by added to add strength to this issue.
- Consideration should be given to encouraging buildings undergoing refurbishment, including historic buildings, to apply standards such as BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes, where appropriate.
- That opportunities to strengthen CS22 (iii) to encourage and facilitate more installation of decentralised energy networks is considered.
- Supporting text for CS22 could outline not only the environmental benefits of reduced energy consumption but also the social and health benefits in terms of reducing fuel poverty and financial exclusion (however, this may be more appropriate within the Design Quality in New Development or Sustainability in Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document).

CS23 Renewable and Low Carbon Infrastructure

Positive impacts:
- CS23 positively supports the development of renewable energy and local carbon infrastructure within the borough, where there is no significant harm to natural resources, historical assets, amenity and living conditions etc. This is particularly appropriate wording as the Preferred Options recognises the benefits of renewable energy but also seeks to mitigate against negative health impacts which this type of development may also have.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That work is undertaken with the Scientific Officer to agree an approach to the use of Biomass within new developments in the borough.

CS24 Managing Flood Risk

Positive impacts:
- CS24 recognises the need for new development to reduce the extent and impact of flooding through development of sites at least risk of flooding in the first instance, requiring Flood Risk Assessments, mitigation measures, and Sustainable Drainage Systems where possible. Long term maintenance of these measures is also required. This is welcomed and supports the HUDU guidance.

Potential negative impacts:
None

Recommendations:
- That the term 'SFRA' within Point 3 is explained.
- In addition to mitigation measures to manage the risk of flooding, consideration should be given to the actual design of buildings on the site to reduce the impact of flooding on the buildings themselves and their inhabitants. However, it is recognised that this may be more appropriate within Preferred Option CS19, with additional guidance given with the Design Quality in New Development Supplementary Planning Document.

Additional comments
None

Conclusions

2.12.10 In general, the guidance within the HUDU checklist is largely taken into account across several of the Preferred Options within the Core Strategy. Opportunities to encourage sustainable and local carbon developments, development of renewable energy and mitigation against flood risk are largely taken.

2.12.11 Minor areas where improvements could be made include the need to encourage the use of new and emerging technologies in reducing energy and the need to measure to be applied the refurbishment of existing buildings as well as new development. In addition, the issue of promoting biomass within the borough could be clarified.

2.13 Overall conclusion

2.13.1 This report has provided a detailed account of the Health Impact Assessment of the Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper, including background information relating to health and planning, an introduction to both the Local Development Framework and Health Impact Assessment process, and the methodology to be applied to this particular assessment.

2.13.2 The second half of this report details the findings of the Health Impact Assessment in the form of potential positive and negative implications of each of the identified Preferred Options, in relation to the evidence provided in the Healthy Urban Development Unit Checklist 'Watch out for health'. Recommendations as to changes which could be made to each of the Preferred Options in order to ensure that the Core Strategy will have a positive impact on the health of the local population are also given.   These have been collated in order of the Preferred Options, in Appendix A of this report.

2.13.3 Overall, it is felt that the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report largely reflects the best practice given in the Healthy Urban Development Checklist, in all of the areas considered. Therefore, if implemented as stated, the Core Strategy would have a generally positive impact on the health of the Knowsley population. Best practice was reflected particularly well in the areas of housing, accessibility and transport, resource minimisation and climate change.

2.13.4 Some areas of concern were raised and these focused mainly around the proposed release of land within the Green Belt for development, which has potential implications for accessibility, neighbourhood amenity and opportunities for physical activity. In order to mitigate against these potential negative impacts, a number of recommendations are suggested, for example, the undertaking of separate Health Impact Assessments on sites coming forward for development and in ensuring that any development retains or improves access to surrounding rural areas.

2.13.5 Recommendations given largely focus around the re-wording of Preferred Options and their supporting text so that benefits to health are properly considered and maximised. In addition, areas where further work between health and planning colleagues is required on certain issues are also identified, for example, in tackling the issues of takeaway food outlets within the borough and identifying and providing for the needs of vulnerable communities within the borough such as the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities.

2.13.6 As detailed in para. 1.4.30, this report will now be taken to the Council's Regeneration, Economy and Skills Portfolio Meeting in early June 2011 for sign off. The report will then be published for public consultation along with the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report for 10 weeks. This will be advertised in a variety of formats for a wider range of stakeholders, including local residents, to comment. Further

details about the consultation process are available in the Preferred Options Report and on the Council's website at www.knowsley.gov.uk/ldf.

2.13.7 Comments received through the consultation process which relate to the HIA will be reported as part of the Report of Consultation which will be produced subsequent to the conclusion of the Preferred Options Consultation. Work will then be undertaken by the Health and Regeneration Officer and the Local Development Framework Team to ensure that the recommendations contained in this report and incorporated within the emerging Core Strategy.

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF RECCOMENDATIONS

PREFERRED OPTION	RECOMMENDATIONS
CS1: Spatial Strategy for Knowsley	• Any new development of land within the Green Belt for housing should ensure that public services are accessible within reasonable distance by a range of transport modes, giving priority to walking and cycling.
CS2: Development Principles	• That Preferred Option CS2 is strengthened to ensure accessibility to public services for vulnerable groups is given appropriate consideration. • It should be recognised that walking and cycling, although beneficial to human health, is not an appropriate means of transport for everyone and this could be emphasised within the supporting text of Preferred Option CS2. • Whilst the principle that new development will have 'no negative impact upon flood risk, air quality, etc' is commendable, and a positive in terms of human health, it is questionable how realistic this is and how it would be measured and implemented. It is therefore recommended that this be reworded to take account of these issues. • More specific guidance on noise levels should be included where appropriate (i.e. within the Core Strategy or Supplementary Planning Documents). Work to be undertaken with the Scientific Officer to make links to the Merseyside Noise Policy. • That reference to the North West Sustainability Checklist for Developments is changed to something more current (the North West Regional Assembly has now been disbanded), for example, a reference to the Sustainability in Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Guidance or national recognised standard such as the Code for Sustainable Homes or BREEAM. • That reference to the use of 'new technology' in order to reduce emissions is considered.
CS3: Housing Supply, Delivery and Distribution	• That a separate Health Impact Assessment be undertaken on all applications which fall outside the stated housing density parameters, where a residential scheme is for 15 units or more. • That planning and health colleagues work together to better understand the changing health and housing needs of the borough, to allow planning for the future.

CS4: Economy and Employment	• Any significant development being classified as edge or out of centre is subject to a separate Health Impact Assessment process. It is recognised that a process will have to be undertaken to define 'significant development', to ensure that the required HIAs are not too onerous for the development and case officers involved. • That CS4 be strengthened to recognise that the quality and connectivity of the retail environment is important to ensure that town centres are considered as a whole. • That further Health Impact Assessment work is carried out on major developments on sites proposed for review and potential release from the Green Belt for employment or other uses. • That a reference be made to 'an appropriate range of high quality jobs' within CS4 (i) Point 3 to emphasise the need for high quality employment within the borough. • That within CS4 (iii), accessibility by sustainable modes of transport is made a factor within the proposed phasing of release of land for employment uses. In addition, that this section is expanded to include ensuring a supply of business start-up premises around the borough. • That opportunities to provide additional services which employees may require such as childcare and health care are encouraged within employment areas such as industrial and businesses parks which are away from traditional town centres. • That the need to promote new and emerging types of businesses e.g. the Knowledge Economy is encouraged, in order to diversify the range of jobs available within the area. • That opportunities to encourage working from home and improvements within digital communications and telecommunication should be explored (although possibly within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Design Quality in New Development or other Supplementary Planning Document, as appropriate). • That reference to the Council's emerging Economic Regeneration Strategy is mentioned where and if appropriate.
CS5: Green Belts	• That the Preferred Option be amended to highlight that a separate Health Impact Assessment could be undertaken on schemes which involve major development propoals on any 'Reserved' or 'Safeguarded' Location within the Green Belt, and that the recommendations of the HIA are incorporated within any development. • That new development within any 'Reserved' or 'Safeguarded' Locations should retain or encourage access to adjacent open/rural areas (e.g. footpaths) and preserve as many natural features of the original character of the landscape as possible (e.g. tree-lines and hedgerows). • To recognise that the Green Belt land is sometimes not perceived as an area which can be used for physical activity/recreation and therefore there are opportunities for colleagues within

	planning/regeneration and public health should work together to encourage more use of these areas and open space in general within Knowsley, also accounting for environmental considerations.
CS6: Hierarchy of Centres and Retail Strategy	• Investigate the potential of the Core Strategy to strengthen the strategic approach to the retention and / or enhancement of local service provision, particularly small shops (i.e. convenience goods). • That where the Council owns vacant shops (largely within neighbourhood centres and not town centres), pro-active ways to encourage the development of new businesses and services are considered. • That opportunities to encourage the establishment of new local businesses and particularly social enterprise which encourage the provision of food within areas where access to fresh food and diet are particularly poor, are explored. However, it is recognised that this may only really be achievable where the Council owns the business premises and that this may be outside the remit of the planning process. • That the supporting text to CS6 references the need for provision of a suitable retail environment for affordable, fresh produce, particularly in some of the more deprived areas of the borough.
CS7: Transport Networks	• That CS7 (i) is re-worded to state that the overall Transport Strategy will 'Improvement the health and wellbeing of local people, by encouraging physically active means of travel and providing access to adequate healthcare facilities'. • CS7 (ii) could possibly be re-worded to clarify that developments should incorporate accessibility by private vehicles (in addition to parking provision), but that this is not a sustainable mode of travel. • Although it is recognised that CS7 supports the implementation of the major projects within the Merseyside Local Transport Plan 3, reference to this document would strengthen these links and help to ensure that all elements of the LTP3 are implemented across Knowsley. • Clarity could be provided in relation to the definition of 'smaller scale proposals' where Transport Assessments and/or Travel Plans will not be required. • CS7 (ii) could be strengthened by; ○ Re-wording to emphasise that it should be the developer's responsibility to ensure that their site is accessible by public transport, walking and cycling and to make the necessary improvements to local infrastructure to support this. (Links with the

	Infrastructure Delivery Plan to also be made here). - Re-wording to ensure clarity over priority for sustainable modes of travel over the need of private vehicles. - Adding a reference to the Ensuring Choice of Travel Supplementary Planning Document. - Making reference to air quality within (4). - That consideration is given to the use of/or explanation of the term 'Active Travel' within the policy or supporting text, to align with terminology within the LTP3. However, the difficulty of using language which is not an adopted planning terms is recognised. - In order to mitigate against any negative impacts of the proposed schemes within CS7 (iii), it is proposed that Knowsley Council ensure (through requiring developers of schemes within Knowsley or lobbying those leading on the development of schemes outside the borough) that separate Health Impact Assessments are carried out on major proposals at an appropriate time. - CS7 (iii) could also be strengthened by the addition of an extra bullet point which encourages development of multi-modal transport sites. - Opportunities to promote community transport through CS7 should be explored, or at least, future expansion of community transport projects should not be inhibited by the proposed Preferred Option. - CS7 could also include reference to the importance of maintenance of transport hubs in encouraging safety and use by all sectors of the community.
CS8: Green Infrastructure	- That re-wording of Preferred Option CS8 is undertaken to ensure that the full range of opportunities for physical activity within the borough's Green Infrastructure is recognised, for example, through play and as a means of accessing employment and services. - That other important factors and functions of the Green Infrastructure are recognised within the supporting text of CS8 including allowing people to interact with the natural environment to promote mental wellbeing. - That other important factors and functions of Green Infrastructure are recognised within Preferred Option CS8 including it's function as a buffer zone to reduce the impact of air and/or noise pollution. - That opportunities for increased community involvement are explored, although this could be considered as part of the overarching Preferred Options of CS1 or CS2. - That reference to areas for local food production is made either within the policy itself or within

	the supporting text. • That reference to local food production (e.g. farms, small holdings and allotments) is added within CS8 (i) as appropriate. This will increase recognition of these issues and will also provide increased protection for allotment sites within CS21 (which refers to the protection of Green Infrastructure functions listed in CS8).
CS9 – 14: Principal Regeneration Areas	
CS15: Delivering Affordable Housing	• That the supporting text for the Preferred Option be re-phrased to try to encourage over the minimum of 25% affordable housing for market schemes. • That the Preferred Option be open to encouraging new types of affordable housing products which may develop over time. • That it be made clear that new housing sites, including those potentially made available as part of the Green Belt review and release, incorporate the same levels of affordable housing as other residential sites within the borough.
CS16: Specialist and Supported Accommodation	• That where possible, it is be specified that residents of specialist and supported living accommodation are included within the design of new buildings, therefore accounting for the needs and aspirations of older people, for example, scooter parking. • That opportunities for re-modelling and re-fitting older people's accommodation are maximised through wording of the Preferred Option. • That the Preferred Option is amended to capitalise on opportunities to align planning policies with health policies, e.g. care at home.
CS17: Housing Sizes and Design Standards	• That the Preferred Option should emphasise that good quality design should be given a high priority, to mitigate against examples of poor design within the borough. • That provision of new housing which includes bungalows should be supported where appropriate within the borough, including both affordable and market units.
CS18: Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling	• The Preferred Option could be amended to highlight the opportunity presented by planning and health colleagues working together to tackle issues of social exclusion, and providing out reach and other services to the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities within the area. • Preferred Option CS18 could outline the opportunities presented by planning and health

Showpeople	colleagues working together to address social exclusion issues and provide outreach and other services to the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities within the area where appropriate.
CS19: Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development	• That reference is made within CS19 (1) to the importance of responding to, complementing and integrating views and scenery, particularly of natural landscapes, possibly within the supporting text. • That reference to 'unacceptable impacts' as stated in CS19 (7) is further explained within the Preferred Option itself or the supporting text. • That potential conflicts between aesthetic design quality and environmentally friendly design are explored and tackled, potentially within the Design Quality in New Development Supplementary Planning Document. • The importance of creating legible environments where people can orientate themselves easily both within development sites and internally within buildings could be mentioned, either within CS19 or in the Design Quality in New Development Supplementary Planning Document. • In addition, internal building design should reflect health objectives, for example, by placing stairs in a more prominent position than the lifts, making optimum use of views and natural light. • Appropriate signage could also be mentioned as a means of helping people orientate themselves more easily. • That CS19 (8) is strengthened through reference to the principles of Secure By Design, the recognised standard for improving community safety through design. A reference to the need to create natural surveillance here or in (4) would also be welcomed. • Reference to the need for landscaping which is appropriate for the area and given long term consideration would also reinforce the community safety priority. • Specific reference could be made to the importance of highway design in creating streets which encourage social interaction and play e.g. Home zones and/or the Manual for Streets (or this may be more appropriate within CS19 or within a relevant Supplementary Planning Document).
CS20: Managing Heritage	• There is potential conflict between improving the energy efficiency of a historic building, whilst also preserving its character. However, often older buildings can be colder with higher levels of damp and draughts than modern housing. This can be detrimental to human health, particularly, the elderly and vulnerable. It is felt that CS20 should state the need to improve

	the energy efficiency of historic buildings where this is appropriate, whilst accounting for conservation requirements. Further guidance about this could be given within the Design Quality in New Development Supplementary Planning Document
CS21: Urban Greenspaces	• That linkages between Preferred Option CS21 and the Knowsley Rights of Way programme are made, possibly within the supporting text of CS21. • That CS21 be amended to note that developer contributions should be used in the most appropriate way i.e. provision of new open space or contribution to the maintenance or improvement of established green space within the area. • That CS19 (8) is strengthened through reference to the principles of Secure By Design, the recognised standard for improving community safety through design, or via reference within the supporting text to CS19. • Further links could be made with the Greenspace Strategy and the need to increase community safety within open spaces within the borough.
CS22: Sustainable and Low Carbon Development	• That CS22 (i) make reference to the efficient re-use of materials and use of recycled materials within developments. • That in addition to 'local suppliers', reference is also made to 'local materials' within (7). This will not only support local businesses but will also ensure that materials do not use large amount of carbon through the transportation process. • That a reference to encouraging active travel (walking and cycling) through the design, layout and location of development by added to add strength to this issue. • Consideration should be given to encouraging buildings undergoing refurbishment, including historic buildings, to apply standards such as BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes, where appropriate. • That opportunities to strengthen CS22 (iii) to encourage and facilitate more installation of decentralised energy networks is considered. • Supporting text for CS22 could outline not only the environmental benefits of reduced energy consumption but also the social and health benefits in terms of reducing fuel poverty and financial exclusion (however, this may be more appropriate within the Design Quality in New Development or Sustainability in Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document).
CS23: Renewable and Low Carbon	• That work is undertaken with the Scientific Officer to agree an approach to the use of Biomass within new developments in the borough.

Infrastructure	
CS24: Managing Flood Risk	• That the term 'SFRA' within Point 3 is explained. • In addition to mitigation measures to manage the risk of flooding, consideration should be given to the actual design of buildings on the site to reduce the impact of flooding on the buildings themselves and their inhabitants. However, it is recognised that this may be more appropriate within Preferred Option CS19, with additional guidance given with the Design Quality in New Development Supplementary Planning Document.
CS25: Management of Mineral Resources	• That CS25 (i) the requirement for 'a proportion of construction aggregates…from recycled or secondary sources' is strengthened to say 'a *significant* proportion' or something similar. • That major future mineral extraction work and/or major development within areas of existing or proposed mineral extraction (e.g. backfilling) be subject to separate Health Impact Assessments.
CS26: Waste Management	• That within CS26 (3), 're-use' of materials is added to strengthen this point. • That within CS26 (5), the term 'impacts' are further explained, for example, would it be clearer to state 'negative impacts' or maybe explain what these impacts may be.
CS27: Planning for and Paying for New Infrastructure	• That the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), when developed in full, properly reflects the needs of local communities and ensures that developer contributions are allocated and spent in ways which will support improvements to social cohesion and capital. In addition, local communities should also be involved in the development of the IDP where appropriate, through public consultation and involvement in stakeholder groups.
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY TOPIC AREA	
Housing	• Where appropriate the Core Strategy should make mention of the importance of post-construction management of all types of housing, not just for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation. This will help to manage accidents within the home. • That the Core Strategy also makes greater links to the Knowsley Housing Strategy currently under development. • That strong links between new residential development and greenspaces/communal areas

	should be made.
Access to public services	• Re-wording Preferred Option CS6 to promote suitable night-time uses within Knowsley's existing town centres, which will encourage social interaction and cultural activities. • That additional work is undertaken and local evidence gathered around the issues relating to hot food takeaways within the borough, and the opportunities to tackle this problem through the planning process are explored, dependent upon the outcome of the local evidence. It is recognised that this may be better addressed within a subsequent LDF document to the Core Strategy alongside other mechanisms, e.g. licensing restrictions. • Links to the borough wide Child Health Strategy could be made to highlight issues relating to access to public services for future generations. • Potential gaps in references to schooling and health centres within the wider document should be considered, including service provision and accessibility. • Greater flexibility about use of public buildings, for example schools, could be employed to ensure service delivery at a level accessible to communities. Opportunities should be taken to explore how to promote this through the Core Strategy, subsequent LDF documents and potentially other Council plans and strategies.
Opportunities for physical activity	• That reference is made within the Core Strategy to the borough's Leisure and Culture Strategy.
Air, noise and neighbourhood amenity	*None*
Accessibility and transport	*None*
Crime reduction and community safety	• That the Core Strategy or subsequent LDF document include measures to encourage the incorporation of sensitive lighting within the design of new development including housing, business and transport hubs, to reduce opportunities for crime and fear of crime. It is recognised that this may be most appropriate within a relevant Supplementary Planning Document. • That community involvement in the design of new facilities and community ownership/maintenance of open spaces and other areas be encouraged to help increase community safety, for example, through 'Friends of' groups.

Access to healthy food	• That investigation into limiting numbers of additional takeaway food outlets within certain areas of the borough is continued, and that appropriate measures are incorporated within the Core Strategy or Supplementary Planning Documents to deal with this in future, alongside investigation of other potential restrictions e.g. licensing of premises.
Access to work	*None*
Social cohesion and social capital	• That increased community engagement is undertaken within all aspects of regeneration, investment and development. Opportunities for this include through the design of new buildings and service provision and through investment and long-term maintenance of parks and open spaces ('Friends of' groups, allotment groups etc). This should be encouraged throughout the Core Strategy as a whole. • Leisure and cultural facilities can also provide a focus for social interaction, and increased reference to these facilities could be made through out the Core Strategy. • That further encouragement is given to new start up businesses and social enterprise, for example, within CS4; and also, voluntary and community groups such as 'Friends of' groups within CS8 and CS21. • That consideration is given to where there is a need for new community facilities and where consolidation and investment is required in other areas. It is recognised that this is an area which the Council may not have tackled on a borough wide basis yet and therefore would be difficult to convert into policy at this stage.
Resource minimisation	• That reference within the Core Strategy is made to prioritising the redevelopment of brown field land, not just land within existing urban areas. This may be most appropriate within CS1 or CS2 and could be reinforced within policy CS22 or CS26.
Climate change	*None*